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THE DREAM OF FERDINAND

BULGARIA'S KING AS A MAKER OF NATIONS.

[BY JOSEPH REINACH, ALIAS "POLYBE," THE GREAT FRENCH WRITER.]

The *Daily Express* has asked me for my views on the future of Russia, and since I have always declined to play the prophet, I must content myself with repeating here a conversation which I had some days ago. My friend, whose name I may not mention, is a Roman Catholic Swiss who was a friend of the Princess Clémentine of Orleans, and who has also been on terms of friendship, as far as any one can be the friend of that singular personage, with her son, the Czar of Bulgaria. He had not sought the opportunity of talking to me, but he took full advantage of it.

"Have you any idea," he said, "of King Ferdinand's present dream? If you repeat what I am going to tell you, and if the King reads what you write, he will, of course, issue the usual denials. Ferdinand is one of the most audacious of living conspirators. He has often boasted that he learned from Bismarck the art of lying. But I am sure of my facts."

HATRED FOR RUSSIA.

"Ferdinand declares that he allied himself with the Central Powers for one cause only—hatred of Serbia and his desire to exact vengeance for Bulgaria's defeat in the second Balkan war. That is not altogether true. It is certain that he wished to be revenged against Serbia, but he hates the Russians more than his neighbours on the Danube, and he decided to league himself against them the moment he was convinced that an Austro-German victory was certain. He has said many times, 'I am determined to be on the winning side.'"

"What is Ferdinand's present situation? He has contributed to the downfall of Serbia and of the Roumanians, who compelled him to accept the treaty of Bucharest. The Russian revolution has satisfied his hatred of the Russian Emperor. Russian anarchy, if it is not stayed, must mean Russian disorganisation. On the other hand, the Germanic empires have not kept their promise to finish the war victoriously in a given number of months. No one knows better than Ferdinand the extent of Teutonic economic misery. No one realises more completely that the blockade is operating like an everturning vice. The Bulgarian army will soon have been fighting for two years. It is made up of peasants who are yearning for their fields and whose discontent ever increases. Revolt may break out any day in Bulgaria."

"Then Ferdinand dreams of being the arbitrator of peace. He is a cynic, devoid of any moral sense, but he has imagination. He is a gambler, an ambitious aristocrat."

KAISER'S CONTEMPT.

"While President Wilson wishes to establish the future peace of the world on the basis of national liberties and of democracies directing their own destinies, the Czar of Bulgaria yearns to establish peace between the belligerents at the cost of Russia and Turkey. You must know that he cordially detests his dear ally, the German Emperor. Formerly the Kaiser treated him with ill-disguised contempt, as an adventurer who had the impudence to replace a German Prince (Alexander of Baden) at Sofia. The Kaiser is essentially ill-bred, a gentleman with money but without manner. On the other hand, Ferdinand, still French through his mother and having spent his youth in the reined society of Vienna, is a man of breeding, a Valois in his manner."

"So he has conceived a rearrangement of international alliances such as might have occurred to Louis XV. and his Minister, Choiseul. Germany must consent, as Vandervelde says, to the 'disannexation' of Alsace-Lorraine and to just indemnities. Belgium must receive equitable compensation and be reconstituted in her pre-war integrity. The Rhenish provinces will become a neutral State like Belgium and Switzerland. Italy would have Trieste and the Trentino. A vast Danubian Confederation would be formed of German-Austria, Hungary, Serbia, a Croatian-Serbian principality, a kingdom of Bohemia, with the addition of Bessarabia, and Bulgaria with the addition of the Dobruja and Macedonia. This was the dream of Louis Kossuth, the great Hungarian popular leader. It would be founded on the model of the ancient German Confederation, and it would have an elected emperor."

"The kingdom of Poland would be re-established as before the first partition, except that the Baltic littoral would remain Prussian. Poland would have an Austrian Archduke as King. As compensation for Alsace-Lorraine, Germany would receive Livonia and Courland. Russia would thus pay for the war, and, of course, the monarchy would be re-established under a prince chosen by Germany."

CONSTANTINOPLE.

"I need not add that Ferdinand sees himself Emperor or President of the Danubian Confederation, with *carte blanche* with regard to Constantinople. You may bring forward a thousand objections to this plan and Ferdinand may multiply denials, but I assure you that he fondles this dream as often as he fondles his jewels, and that, if all the details are not rigidly settled, his one fixed idea is to be the arbitrator of a peace based on the weakening of Russia, the one great hatred of his tortuous life."

"I have approximately reproduced my friend's words. I shall surprise no one when I add that I frequently interrupted him. 'I know,' I said, 'that Ferdinand regards himself as a second Talleyrand. He signs his letters, 'The Good European.' He is not, however, inspired by Talleyrand's political principles. The great French diplomat, who was the real master at the Congress at Vienna, acted on the principle of legitimacy.'"

(Continued at foot of next column.)

SWEDEN'S POLICY.

STRICTEST NEUTRALITY.

The following interesting communication was received recently by the *Daily Telegraph* from a correspondent who is practically acquainted with the facts and enclosed the documents:—

It is mainly to Hjalmar Branting, chief of the Swedish Socialists, backed by his own and Liberal parties, that Sweden is indebted for the moderating elements in the foreign policy of that realm. For he resisted stoutly and unflinchingly the set tendency to play fast and loose with international fire, and to indulge in diplomatic whims which might have made war inevitable. M. Branting, who has travelled much, and speaks English, French, and German besides his own tongue, is a qualified statesman in the full sense of the term, and it is in this capacity that his lead is followed not only by his own party—which has a relative majority in the Riksdag—but also by the Liberals, who, together with the Socialists, constitute an absolute majority in the Parliament."

Down to the year 1914 the leadership of these two progressive parties fell to the late chief of the Liberals, the ex-Prime Minister Karl Staaf, whose sagacity and soundness would have received more complete recognition in his own country were it not that domestic issues there excited popular judgment and let loose a spirit of reaction, as soon as judgment again becomes serene and unbiased. M. Staaf's instinctive services to the cause of civilisation will be duly recognised, at any rate in Sweden. Ten weeks before the outbreak of the war Mr. E. J. Dillon, who saw it approaching, visited Stockholm, Malmo, Gothenburg, and other places for the express purpose of gauging the national feeling there, and ascertaining the probabilities of Sweden remaining neutral. Accordingly, he sought out Karl Staaf, and after some interesting conversations on Swedish and international politics, requested that statesman to express concisely in writing his views of the attitude which Sweden ought to assume when war should be declared. And this is what that statesman wrote:—

La meilleure politique pour la Suède—est une politique de neutralité absolue et sincère.—(Signed) Karl Staaf.

Stockholm, April 4th, 1914.

[The best policy for Sweden—I am unshakably convinced of it—is a policy of absolutely sincere neutrality.]

Some ten weeks later the catastrophe thus foreseen was at hand, and for a considerable period afterwards public opinion in the Allied countries was at a loss what to think of Sweden. Some held that she was drifting into war on the side of our enemies. Others believed that she was being thrust into it deliberately. But Dr. Dillon consistently maintained that the two progressive parties, the leadership of which was at the moment fallen to M. Branting—after Karl Staaf's death—could succeed in keeping Sweden neutral. And, by way of making assurance doubly sure, Dr. Dillon again visited Sweden, where he had the advantage of talking the matter over with Hjalmar Branting. At the close of their conversation Dr. Dillon requested the Socialist chief to intimate his late friend Karl Staaf and put in writing his views on Sweden's best policy during this world crisis. According to this request, the Swedish statesman penned the following sketch:—

"War is such a misfortune that it would be a crime for ever unparadisable to drive a people into it except in the extreme necessity of defending its life and its liberty. The Swedish people is firmly resolved not to allow itself to be drawn into the abyss, either by a few unscrupulous despots or by a few noisy individuals who are German Imperialists rather than Swedish patriots, forgetting that the future of the small nations depends on the victory of ideas of the liberty and fraternity of all peoples. (Signed) HJALMAR BRANTING."

Stockholm, March 3rd, 1916.

FOOD OUTLOOK IN GERMANY.

The German War Feeding Department has announced that, owing to the large imports from Roumania, bread can be distributed in the unreddened weekly quantity till the coming harvest. The double meat ration will also remain in force. Only in the case of potatoes for food the previous ration of 5 lb. cannot be given in many places, but a corresponding amount of meal or bread will be given instead.

The statement adds that the vegetable crop this year is earlier and more abundant than it has been for years. The supply of fresh fish at present greatly exceeds the demand. In many towns, including Berlin, double the weekly ration of fat will be distributed.

The German people, the announcement says, will pass through the period before the harvest in even better circumstances than optimists hoped.

The principle for which the Allies are fighting is the free choice of free people. Ferdinand's plan is a scandal. It is mixed up with the most contradictory ideas according to his own fantasy and his own personal antipathies. He ignores the principles both of legitimacy and of the right of nations. I mean by this that he ignores these as he has ignored his first false oath. He showered the basest flatteries on Russia, but as he received nothing but insults in return, the idea of a peace concluded at the expense of Russia appeals to him as a means of revenge. This completes the picture of this arch-impostor if your information is correct, but I hesitate to believe it."

"You are wrong," said the Swiss citizen, and we talked of other things.

COMPANY MEETING.

HONGKONG COTTON, WEAVING AND DYEING CO., LTD.

An extraordinary general meeting of the above Company was held on Monday at the office of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. There were present:—The Hon. Mr. C. E. Anton, Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. F. Maitland, C. W. Beswick, Lo Cheung Shui, H. R. B. Hancock, D. W. Munton, and the Liquidator (Mr. C. Bernard Brown). The Liquidator said:—Gentlemen, I have practically nothing to add to the remarks made at the meeting in November, 1915. The report and accounts have been in your hands for some days, and set out quite fully the principal events of the liquidation and the way in which the winding-up of the Company has been conducted. I regret the delay in concluding the final stages of the liquidation, but the amount of the second return of capital was of such insignificance that I do not expect anyone has been seriously inconvenienced by having had to wait eighteen months for it. You will see from the account that in all the sum of \$19,741.58 has been paid into the Court or to Companies' Liquidation Account, the whole of which represents unclaimed balances. It was in the endeavour to augment the cash available for distribution by a portion of this amount that the delay in winding-up has occurred. The result, as stated in the Report, was unfavourable to the Liquidator. I will now ask you to propose and second the first resolution, after which I shall be glad to answer any question to the best of my ability.

There being no questions, the following resolution was carried, on the proposal of the Hon. Mr. Anton, seconded by Mr. Maitland:—That the accounts submitted to this meeting and showing the manner in which the winding-up has been conducted and the property of the Company disposed of be received and adopted. It was also resolved, on the motion of Sir Paul Chater, seconded by Mr. Munton:—That a final return by the Liquidator of nine cents Hongkong currency per share to the persons who are registered as the members of the Company on the 7th day of August, 1917, be and the same hereby is sanctioned. It was proposed by Mr. Hancock, seconded by Mr. Beswick, and agreed:—That the books, accounts and documents of the Company and of the Liquidator thereof be retained by the said Liquidator, he undertaking to destroy the same at the expiration of five years from the dissolution of the Company."

That concluded the business of the meeting, the Liquidator stating that cheques for the return of capital could be obtained the following day at his office upon production of scrip.

The report of the Liquidator stated that he was appointed on 16th May, 1914, and a meeting of creditors was held on 17th June, 1914, at which a resolution was passed confirming the appointment. The Mill continued to run until the 31st October, 1914, on which date it was finally closed down, and the shipment of machinery to Shanghai was proceeded with. The General Managers, at the Liquidator's request, continued their functions in the nature of attending to the shipment of the machinery and such running of the mill as was necessary. The agreement with the Yangtzeppoo Cotton Mill, Limited, for the sale of the mill machinery was duly carried out, and 125,000 shares, purchase consideration, were disposed of in the manner shown on the attached account. The sale of the land and buildings was completed in accordance with the agreement on the 30th September, 1915. All stocks of yarn were disposed of by February, 1916.

On 22nd November, 1915, a meeting of shareholders of the Company was held and an interim return of capital of one dollar per share was sanctioned.

In March, 1916, the Liquidator gave notice to the Official Receiver of his intention to obtain the shareholders' consent to an alteration of the Company's Articles giving the Liquidator power to forfeit the sum of \$3,045.30 standing to the credit of "unclaimed dividends account," being unclaimed shareholders' dividends dating from 1910 and previous years. The Official Receiver, in reply, requested immediate payment into the Companies' Liquidation Account. The matter went before the Chief Justice in Chambers in February, 1917, who decided against the Liquidator.

In March, 1917, the General Managers claimed against the assets of the Company for the cost of reinstatement of certain excavations on the adjacent property lent by the General Managers to the Company. The Liquidator allowed the claim, and the sum of \$4,000 has been reserved against it in the attached accounts.

To Cash in Hand at commencement of Liquidation	\$ 185.85
To Yangtzeppoo Cotton Mill, Ltd., Consideration for sale of machinery 122,141 shares allotted as per contra	795,706.84
To Cash received by Liquidator on account of sales of 2,850 shares	24,309.68
To Land and Buildings. Proceeds of sale	400,000.00
	\$1,290,202.37
To Yarn Sales proceeds	1,420,152.25
To Interest	1,303.17
To Transfer Fees	105.00
	\$2,641,823.79

By Payments on account of Shareholders' Capital. Yangtzeppoo Cotton Mill, Ltd. Purchase of 122,141 shares of Tls 5 each in above Company disposed of as under:—
122,141 shares applied for and allotted to shareholders in the Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing Co., Ltd. Tls 610,705.00 at 703 each \$795,706.84
1,236 shares sold by Liquidator and proceeds paid to owners 11,039.67
1,564 shares sold by Liquidator but unclaimed and proceeds paid into Court under Trustee's Order of sale \$13,330.61
Interest thereon 418.67
13,749.28 \$ 820,495.19

First Return of Capital of \$1.00 per share:—
Claimed on 122,653 shares \$122,653.00
Unclaimed return on 2,347 shares paid into Companies' Liquidation A/c 2,347.00
Final Return of Capital of 9 cts. per share 11,250.00
\$ 930,745.19

By Expenses Incurred after Commencement of Liquidation in carrying on the business:—
Working Account \$813,611.65
General Managers' Remuneration 5,372.71
Interest 54,945.94
Consulting Committee and Auditors' Fees 4,250.00
\$ 881,060.23

By Payments to Creditors:—
Jardine, Matheson & Co. overdraft \$605,140.42
Labour security refunded 5,630.00
Unclaimed Dividends paid into Companies' Liquidation Account 3,645.30
\$ 678,415.72

By Liquidation Expenses:—
Liquidator's disbursements 4,603.02
Cost of transferring machinery to Shanghai 115,094.86
Cost of reinstating property 4,000.00
Liquidator's Fee 3,000.00
Legal Expenses 1,614.10
\$ 128,301.98

By Balance in Liquidator's hands against cost of dissolving Company 280.57
\$2,641,823.79

C. BERNARD BROWN, A.C.A., Liquidator.

Hongkong, August 3rd, 1917.

HONGKONG TRAMWAY CO., LTD.

The approximate statement of traffic receipts for the week ending 11th August is as follows:—

	Receipts for week	Aggregate for 32 weeks
This Year...	\$14,006	\$429,271
Last Year...	18,623	458,677
De rease	4,617	29,406

ENEMY PRINCES AND BRITISH ORDERS

In the House of Commons recently, Mr. Swift, MacNeill asked the Prime Minister whether, having regard to the conferring of peerages of the United Kingdom by his Majesty the King on members of the Royal Family in lieu of German names and titles, the Cabinet will advise his Majesty in the exercise of his Royal prerogative immediately to remove from the roll of the honorary Knights of the Bath eight princes at war against the people of these countries, including the King of Bulgaria, Prince Albert of Schleswig-Holstein, and from the roll of the Victorian Order with the Victorian Chain the princes in arms against the people of this country, including the German Emperor, the German Crown Prince, Prince Henry of Prussia, and H.R.H. the Duke of Albany. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Orders have been given that henceforward all alien enemies shall cease to be members of any British Order of Chivalry to which they belonged before the outbreak of war. (Hear, hear.)

THE CAINE ROAD DISASTER

MR. LITTLE GIVES EVIDENCE.

The hearing was resumed at the Hongkong Magistracy yesterday, by Mr. J. R. Wood, of the enquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of a female victim of the Caine Road disaster of July 16th, when the servants' quarters of Nos. 10 and 12, Caine Road were demolished, as the result of the retaining wall of St. Joseph's College playground collapsing, six deaths resulting therefrom.

Mr. G. H. Wakeman (Crown Solicitor) was present on behalf of the Crown, Mr. F. B. L. Bowley watched the case on behalf of Messrs. Leigh & Orange, Mr. D. V. Stevenson appeared for the authorities of St. Joseph's College, and Mr. Lo represented the occupiers of No. 12, Caine Road.

Mr. A. Colbourne Little, architect, was the first witness.

Witness was cautioned by the Coroner, who said that in view of the evidence, Mr. Little, if he thought fit, could refuse to answer questions which he might think were prejudicial.

Mr. Little then said that he had been engaged to do extension work at St. Joseph's College, and that he supervised this work. The work included certain repairs to the playground. The sketch (produced) was made by him, and was handed to the Chinese clerk of works to carry out the work. The work on the playground commenced early this year, and before it was commenced he had a "walk around" with Brother Amar: it was not an inspection. At the beginning of 1916 he had examined the retaining wall, and it had no appearance then of being unsafe; he considered it to be safe. Early in the present year he also looked at the wall with Brother Amar, and it was then in the same condition. Witness advised Bro. Amar to open up the ground at the back of the crack, to see if there was any defect in the wall. The playground required re-surfacing, and he supervised this work. He did not supervise the work on the wall; he had no definite instructions to do so. He merely recommended that the work should be done; he did not say it should be done at once, but that the wall should be examined to see what its stability was like. His recommendation with regard to the wall had not been carried out so far. Witness added that he had nothing to do with supervising the contractors or the payment for the work. The clerk of the works was the man who had charge of the work, Mr. Chan Ah Tong.

Mr. Wood—He said he took his orders from you?—Certainly, so far as regards the buildings.

Witness added, in reply to Mr. Wood that the original intention was to raise the playground nine inches. The material used was building rubble. He examined the collapse on the day of the occurrence, but at that time could form no opinion as to the cause. Subsequently he came to the conclusion that the building of the retaining wall had been "scamped."

The base of the wall was narrower than he had expected; he expected that it would have been a couple of feet wider.

At this point witness said that the Building Authority plan which had been handed to him was not correct in this connection, and Mr. Wright explained that it was only a sketch.

Mr. Little then said he had a correct plan, which he would put in.

This was allowed.

Proceeding to answer Mr. Wood, witness said the retaining wall was wider half way up than at the base.

The plans made by Messrs. Leigh & Orange for the building of the original wall, in which the retaining wall had been built, were then put in and examined at some length.

These showed that the base of the retaining wall should have been 6 ft. 6 ins., but it was found after the collapse that it was two feet short of 6 ft. 6 ins. Also, the foundation of the wall was not on hard ground. It was built on brown and black earth; he had never seen anything like it before. Again, the wall was not built of square stone, and it would have been better if the wall had been built with square stone. In his opinion, also, the lower wall collapsed first, and that was another contributory cause of the collapse; the lower wall was not fit for the purpose of supporting the retaining wall.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

"SERVICES' ENTERTAINMENT FUND."

The following subscriptions to the above fund have been received by the Treasurer during the week ending August 14th and are gratefully acknowledged:

In the last published list of subscribers for the week ending August 7th, for "W. M. Humphreys—\$5" read "D. MacDonald (July)—\$10; and for "Total carried forward read \$1,908.76 instead of \$1,903.76.

Brought forward	\$1,908.76
H.S.B.C. Int. to 30-6/17 @ 2 per cent.	6.00
"An A.C."	3.00
J. R. W.	10.00
Dr. and Mrs. Marriott	50.00
G. E. S.	10.00
J. S. Perry	25.00
Carried forward	\$2,013.30

* Monthly subscription.

\$ Donation.

T. ROBINSON

(General Secretary).

F. G. B. HASTINGS, R.N.

(Naval Secretary).

C. L. COOPER-HUNT, C.F.

(Military Sec. and Treasurer).

DEATH OF THE "GRAND OLD MAN" OF INDIA.

On June 30th, at Bombay, there passed away quietly, full of honours, at the ripe age of 92, the great Parsi patriot and patriarch, Dadabhai Naoroji, the "Grand old man of India." Indian papers of all shades and creeds, native, Anglo-Indian and English, unite in singing his praises. After 70 years of strenuous labour for the welfare of the people, this Tribune of the Indian public retired from public life in 1908. His last message to his compatriots is still ringing in the ears of all right-thinking Indians:—"I take this opportunity to entreat that all resort to violence should be avoided. Our grievances are many and they are just. Maintain the struggle for essential reforms with unceasing endeavour and sacrifice, peacefully, patiently, and perseveringly, and appeal without fear or flattery to the conscience and righteousness of the British Nation."

The Indian public in the Far East deeply regret that this sad but important piece of news was not wired to them, as to the other parts of the world, either by public telegraphic service or private wire, for by this omission they were deprived of the melancholy pleasure of showing the sense of their respect for the deceased by closing their businesses and sending a message of condolence to the bereaved family, as was done in other parts of the world.—Contributed.

The sinking of rain water through cracks in the playground, referred to by Mr. Wright, might have assisted the collapse, but, in his opinion, it was not the main cause.

By Mr. Wakeman—He had "kept an eye on the wall" continually.

Answering Mr. Stevenson, witness said he did not inspect the lower wall before he commenced work on the playground. He told Bro. Amar to watch the wall. He knew that the crack had been in the wall for 18 months. In his opinion the addition of earth and rubble in the playground would not increase the saturation; it would decrease it.

By Mr. Lo—The lower wall may have been brought down by stream water. His recommendation to Bro. Amar that the wall should be opened up to examine it as to its stability had not been followed.

By Mr. Bowley—He admitted that the retaining wall as shown on his plan looked like a wall standing on its head, an inverted wall, but it was just as the wall appeared to him. If the lower wall had a foundation of 6 ft. 6 ins. and was 12 feet high it would be quite a good wall. Also, if the retaining wall had its foundations taken down to the solid, and was three to four feet away from the lower wall, there would be no undue pressure on the lower wall.

Mr. Wright was recalled, and said that as a result of further examination he was still of the opinion that the retaining wall was a well-constructed wall. Speaking generally, however, it was not constructed according to plan.

At this juncture, the enquiry was adjourned until this afternoon. In the meantime, the jury, along with the Coroner, will visit the scene of the collapse.

FIRE INSURANCE

AN INTERESTING CLAIM.

The hearing was resumed at the Hongkong Summary Court, yesterday, of the case in which the Yung Fong firm of Kongmoon claim \$500 from The Shanghai Fire and Marine Insurance Co., Ltd. The claim is made under a policy of fire insurance issued to the plaintiffs.

Mr. C. G. Alabaster (instructed by Mr. Leo d'Almeida) for plaintiffs, and Mr. Eldon Potter (instructed by Mr. A. M. Preston) represents the Company.

Mr. Potter, at the close of the evidence for the defence, again addressed the Court. He said that in the light of contemporaneous events he would submit that the story put forward by the plaintiff as to the origin of the fire was, to say the least, highly artificial. What were the admitted contemporaneous events? The Province of Kwangtung was in a state of revolt. Furious fighting was going on between what they called the People's Soldiers and the troops of General Lung. So fierce was the fighting that they were told, even by one of the plaintiff's witness—the old man from the electric light works—that the country around Kongmoon was devastated. And the character of the fighting was also made clear by that same witness.

At this point Mr. Alabaster said he wished to recall the "old man from the electric light works" to rebut certain evidence. This witness was again put in the witness box, and, replying to Mr. Alabaster, alleged that the Chief of Police called by the other side was not in Kongmoon on the night of the fire; he had previously left by special train and even invited witness to go with him.

By Mr. Potter—He was naturally very interested in the case; he considered it most inequitable that the Company had not paid compensation.

But have not 18 companies refused to pay?—I am not sure; the Wah Hing Company have paid.

Then let me tell you that 16 companies have refused to pay, including two big English companies in Hongkong; they are all acting in an inequitable manner?—Yes, they are.

Asked why he had called the Chief of Police a cashier, witness said that he knew that at one time the Chief of Police was a cashier, but he had been promoted.

And you knew that all the time?—No, I did not; and if I do not speak the truth I am quite willing to have my head chopped off.

Continuing his address, Mr. Potter said that they got a very fair idea of the character of the fighting and of the troops concerned by leading articles in the *Kongmoon Weekly News*, which were adopted by the old man from the electric light works, subject to the reservation that the fire was caused by the falling out of the bottom of an old lamp. The articles showed how bitter was the fighting; for they spoke of robbery and rape and so on, and, generally, gave very picturesque descriptions of what one would expect to happen when people's soldiers rose in revolt against Lung's men, and the revolt was repressed by General Lung by force of arms. There was fighting not only in the Province, but also in Kongmoon itself, and in the very street where this fire took place; and they were told that the people in this street were on the side of the people's army. Remembering all these circumstances, he thought the plaintiff's story was highly artificial. It was not uncommon in a revolt of that character to have fires; also outrages of all descriptions, and not merely outrages, but military reprisals. Yet they were asked to believe that a few hours after the bitter fighting had been proceeding in the street that unfortunate locality was visited by a huge conflagration, as the result of the bottom falling out of a barber's lamp, which destroyed over 20 houses. Counsel then submitted that it would be a serious thing for an insurance company to try and fraudulently evade its liabilities and try to suggest that a fire was caused either by riot or war, when, as a fact, it was caused accidentally. He did not think his Lordship would believe that the 16 insurance companies concerned with the Kongmoon fire were trying to get out of their liabilities.

The Puisne Judge—It would be very bad business.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

HONGKONG AND GERMANS.

We note from the last mail (says the *London and China Express*) that the official element in the Hongkong Legislative Council has put its veto upon the resolution brought before it by the Chairman of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, to the effect that Germans should be excluded from the Colony for ten years after the war, and that they should only be admitted at the end of that period under licence. The Governor expressed the view that it was "not in the interests of the Colony." Nevertheless, the rejection of the resolution seems to have aroused a good deal of indignation on the part of the business community. There is, no doubt, a good deal to be said on both sides, but the revelations made as the result of the liquidation of enemy firms in Hongkong lends considerable weight to the point of view of the Chamber of Commerce. The matter, of course, is not one for the interference of outsiders, but, judging from the fact that the Chamber has re-affirmed the resolution, and that it has been acclaimed at a great public meeting, we may infer that further pressure will be put upon the local Government to secure the end in view. In this connection we may recall the remarks of Mr. Gershom Stewart, who, speaking on the Colonial Office Vote so far back as July, 1915, remarked:—"I might suggest that having now got rid of the Germans from our Colonies, we should not be in too great a hurry to get them back again. They will always intrigue against us, and now that the cancer of their presence is cut out, I hope the right hon. gentleman—Mr. Bonar Law—will do all he can to prevent its malignant tentacles from spreading anew in our Colonies. They have abused our national hospitality by their cold-blooded schemes of murder and violated all feelings of fairplay, and this deprives them of consideration." Since Mr. Stewart spoke these words the sentiments he expressed are more firmly held both in Singapore and Hongkong, and it is only to be expected that some effort should be made to translate them into practical effect.

SHIPPING NEWS.

HIGHER PACIFIC FREIGHTS.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha, the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, and the Osaka Shosen Kaisha have received formal sanction from the Tokio Government for the raising of regular service freight rates on their trans-Pacific lines.

The rise in the freight rates between Japan and the American and Canadian ports ranges between 5.0 and 7.1 per cent., only safety matches and unhusked peanuts not being affected by this rise. The inland rates are raised between 6.7 per cent. and 14.0 per cent. The new rates will be put into effect whenever the shipping companies complete their preparations for it.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

BAND PRACTICES AT 6 P.M.
Thursday, August 16th; Wednesday, August 22nd; and Tuesday, August 29th.
The Band will play at North Point on Saturday, the 1st September, at 9 p.m.
ORCHESTRA PRACTICES AT 6 P.M.
Monday, August 20th; and Monday, August 27th.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF MACAO VOLUNTEER CORPS.

Referring to the Notice posted in the Hall of the Police Reserve Headquarters' Club, any members of the Police Reserve desirous of accepting the said invitation will send in his name to the Officer Commanding his respective Unit on or before Friday, the 17th instant, at 12 o'clock noon.

Officers Commanding Units are required to send in to the undersigned complete lists by 6 p.m. on that date.

(Sgd.) T. F. HUGHES, A.S.P. (R.).

14th August, 1917.

Mr. Potter added that a feature of plaintiff's case was the absence of the unfortunate youth who was said to have dropped the lamp which caused the fire. The barber, who seemed to be a fairly intelligent person, must have realised that this youth would have been a very important witness, yet he had not been brought forward. On the other hand, the evidence given by the witnesses for the defence fitted in with exactly what they said happened at Kongmoon during the fighting. The evidence of Mr. Cobb supported this story.

Subsequently, his Lordship gave judgment for the defendant Company on the issue, but the points of law involved will be argued on the 24th inst.

INTIMATIONS

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(TELEPHONE 1741).

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ENGINE PACKINGS AND JOINTINGS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

"GARLOCK" STYLE No. 900 JOINTING,

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THE BEST SHEET PACKING PRODUCED FOR HIGH PRESSURE AND SUPERHEATED STEAM.

SIZES 1/32 TO 1/8.

"GARLOCK" SPECIAL HYDRAULIC ROCK HARD RING PACKING.

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A.V.C. FINEST OLD LIQUEUR BRANDY.

GUARANTEED 30 YEARS OLD.

V. D. CLARETS. V. D. SAUTERNES. V. D. BURGUNDIES.

Stocked by HONGKONG HOTEL.

Obtainable at LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

A. & B. MACKAY'S LIQUEUR WHISKY.

THE ORIGINAL LIQUEUR WHISKY.

PRICE \$24.00 PER CASE DUTY PAID.

Has a fine mild flavour and a refreshing clean taste.

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WANTED.

SELLING AGENT resident in Belfast requires direct Agency for special line in Chinese Hemp for North of Ireland and Scottish trade, in a position to handle large quantities. Address, MESSRS. GALWAY, McILWAIN & SEEDS, Ann Street, Belfast, Ireland. [947]

WANTED.

LOCAL Shipping Firm requires an **ENERGETIC YOUNG EUROPEAN** with previous experience. Knowledge of Typing and Shorthand preferred. Apply to—
Box 15,
Care of "Daily Press" Office. [948]

WANTED.

ONE of the Largest British Fire Insurance Companies invites applications for **AGENCIES** in Hongkong, Shanghai and Treaty Ports.

Apply—

Box 8,
Care of "Daily Press" Office. [949]



GOVERNMENT BILLS, ETC.

TENDERS for SPECIE and MEXICAN DOLLARS current in this Colony, for Telegraphic Transfer, on the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, London, will be received by the **TREASURY CHEST OFFICER, ARMY PAY DEPARTMENT**, until 11.30 o'clock A.M. on the 15th August, 1917.

The tenders to state the total amount (in Pounds Sterling). No Telegraphic Transfer will be made for less than £100.

The tenders to be in duplicate, and in sealed covers, addressed to the **TREASURY CHEST OFFICER, ARMY PAY DEPARTMENT**, and endorsed "TENDERS FOR GOVERNMENT BILLS, ETC."

The right to accept or reject any or all of the tenders is reserved.

Copies of Forms of Tender can be had on application.

Persons tendering for (Bills) are hereby notified that having regard to the provisions of the Acts 22 George III., Cap. 45 and 41, George III., Cap. 52, the acceptance of any such Tender is subject to the express condition that no Member of the British House of Commons shall be admitted to any share or part in or to any benefit to arise from the Contract thereby made for the allotment of such (Bills).

The provisions in question do not apply to Contracts entered into by an incorporated Company in its corporate capacity and made for the general benefit of the Company.

F. J. THURSBY-PELHAM, Lt.-Colonel, Treasury Chest Officer, A.P.D.

His Majesty's Treasury Office, Hongkong, 15th August, 1917. [950]

WANTED.

LADY STENOGRAPHER and TYPIST. Apply stating experience, etc.
Box No. 131,
Care of "Daily Press" Office. [952]

WANTED.

ENGINEER, BRITISH, as WORKS FOREMAN. Applications with Copy References in own writing, stating age, experience and salary required. No other applications considered.
W. S. BAILEY & CO., LTD. [951]

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, MACAO.

RE-OPENS SEPT. 10TH.

A Liberal Education provided in English, Commercial Subjects, Modern Languages and Chinese at very moderate charges.

The School is situated in the healthiest part of Macao.

Application to the Fr. Director. [957]

UNIVERSITY OF HONGKONG

MATRICULATION, SENIOR AND JUNIOR LOCAL EXAMINATIONS.

THESE EXAMINATIONS will commence on MONDAY, December 10th, 1917.

Arrangements will be made to hold the Examinations at any town where a sufficient number of Candidates offer themselves.

Candidates who wish to be examined at any other place than Hongkong or Shanghai must apply to the Registrar on or before September 2nd, 1917.

Forms of entry and all particulars can be obtained on application to the Registrar, The University, Hongkong.

The entry form duly filled in, must reach the Registrar, together with the fee (Ten Dollars, Hongkong Currency) on or before October 2nd, 1917.

Four Cash Prizes will be awarded on the results of the Matriculation Examination, provided that Candidates of sufficient merit offer themselves.

Candidates who secure cash prizes must enter the University on January 2nd, 1918, and must reside in one of the hostels directly managed by the University.

The Examinations will be conducted according to the "Regulations for the Senior and Junior Local Examinations and for the Matriculation Examination, 1917."

PUBLIC COMPANIES

NOTICE.

THE HONGKONG STEEL FOUNDRY COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE SEVENTH ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at the Company's Office, St. George's Building, Hongkong, TO-DAY (WEDNESDAY), August 15th 1917, at 11.30 a.m., for the purpose of presenting the Report of the General Managers and Statement of Accounts to May 31st, 1917.

The **TRANSFER BOOKS** of the Company will be **CLOSED** from August 5th to 10th 1917, both days inclusive.

GORDON & Co., General Managers. Hongkong, 6th August, 1917. [919]

HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

IN accordance with the Provisions of No. 111 of the Articles of Association of the above Company have this day declared an **INTERIM DIVIDEND** for the half-year ended 30th June, 1917, of **TWO DOLLARS PER SHARE.**

DIVIDEND WARRANTS may be obtained on application at the Office of the Company on and after **TUESDAY, 21st instant.**

The **TRANSFER BOOKS** of the Company will be **CLOSED** from the 10th to 20th instant, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., LTD., General Managers. Hongkong, 8th August, 1917. [929]

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO., LTD.

AN INTERIM DIVIDEND of ONE DOLLAR (\$1) per Share for Account 1917 will be payable on **FRIDAY, the 24th August, 1917.** Shareholders are requested to apply for Dividend Warrants at the Company's Office, St. George's Building, Hongkong.

The **TRANSFER BOOKS** of the Company will be **CLOSED** from **MONDAY, the 20th August, 1917, to FRIDAY, the 24th August, 1917, both days inclusive.**

SHEWAN, TOMES & Co., General Managers. Hongkong, 10th August, 1917. [935]

THE HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an **INTERIM DIVIDEND** of \$2.50 per Share will be paid to all Shareholders on the Company's Register at 30th September, 1917.

By Order of the Board of Directors, R. M. DYER, Chief Manager. Hongkong, 13th August, 1917. [945]

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

THE DIVIDEND DECLARED for the Half Year ending 30th June, 1917, at the Rate of **TWO POUNDS PER SHARE** (SHILLINGS STERLING) per Share, is Payable on and after **MONDAY, the 13th day of August, Current,** at the Offices of the Corporation, where Shareholders are requested to apply for Warrants.

By Order of the Court of Directors, N. J. STABB, Chief Manager. Hongkong, 11th August, 1917. [938]

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Certificate No. 3483, dated Hongkong 19th February, 1900, for 50 Shares numbered 1924 to 1929, 19203 to 19207, 19240 to 19249, 19280 to 19289, 19303 to 19307, 19340 to 19349, and Provisional Certificate No. 43/371 dated Hongkong, 5th July, 1907, for 25 Shares numbered 88206 to 88230, all Registered in the name of Sir CARL MYERS, Bart., have been **LOST or STOLEN,** and should this Certificate and this Provisional Certificate not be produced to the Bank before the 2nd September, 1917, new Certificates for the Shares will be issued and the aforesaid Certificate No. 3483 and Provisional Certificate No. 43/371 will thereafter be treated by this Corporation as Null and Void.

By Order of the Court of Directors, N. J. STABB, Chief Manager. Hongkong, 1st August, 1917. [901]



NOTICE.

ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Asiatic or Indian desiring to leave the Colony should apply in person at the **CENTRAL POLICE STATION** between the hours of 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. daily.

Applicants will be required to produce Passports or identification papers.

All persons with certain exceptions who remain in the Colony for more than 7 days are required to register themselves under the **REGISTRATION or PERSONS ORDINANCE 1914.**

Forms of Registration giving the particulars required may be obtained at the G.P.O. and at all Police Stations.

The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine not exceeding \$50.

FOR SALE.

PACKETS of PORTUGUESE POSTAGE STAMPS (no duplicate) containing:

40 Stamps for \$1.00 40 Stamps for \$2.75
50 " " 1.25 50 " " 3.35
60 " " 1.75 60 " " 4.00
70 " " 2.50

GRACA & CO.,
No. 1, WYNN STREET, Hongkong.

782

HOUSES TO LET

TO LET.

IMMEDIATE entry. Four very desirable **SHOPS**, situated in Ice House Street, opposite the Grand Hotel, recently reconstructed.

For rent and other particulars apply to—
THE MANAGER,
HONGKONG ICE CO., LTD.,
46, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL. [900]

TO LET.

"HOMESTEAD," No. 43, PRAX, Unfurnished, immediate possession, for 3 months.

FLATS, "WILD DOLL BUILDINGS," Wanchai. **HOUSES and FLATS, Gap Road.**

Apply to—
SANG KEE,
Care of COMPAGNONS DEPT.,
HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION. [894]

TO LET.

A FLAT in Nathan Road, Kowloon.

Apply to—
HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE Co., Ltd.,
Alexandra Buildings. [941]

TO LET.

OFFICES at 1, Connaught Road Central, in King's Buildings.

HOUSES in Broadwood and Moreton Terraces.

HOUSES on Shamoen, Canton.

Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY Co., Ltd. [93]

TO LET.

NO. 26, BELILIOS TERRACE.

NO. 2, FAIRVIEW, Kowloon.

ONE GODOWN in Daddell Street.

Apply to—
LINSTRAD & DAVIS,
3rd Floor, Alexandra Buildings. [90]

WANTED TO RENT OR PURCHASE

A SMALL HOUSE with Tennis Court. Peak district preferred.

Apply—
"X. Y. Z.,"
Care of "Daily Press" Office. [949]

WANTED.

A HOUSE or WHOLE FLOOR with about 10 Rooms in a central location.

Please apply to—
Box No. 1,
Care of "Daily Press" Office. [767]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions from the Liquidator of Messrs. WILKES & Co. in pursuance of an order of the Hongkong Government to sell by public auction at 11 o'clock (Noon) on **MONDAY, the 17th day of August, 1917, at his Sales Rooms, Duddell Street, Hongkong,**

All the piece of ground situate at Yau-mai, Kowloon, in the Colony of Hongkong, and registered in the Land Office as **KOWLOON INLAND LOT No. 208.**

The property consists of a piece of ground abutting on Battery Street and Fourth Street (near the Fringe) in Kowloon and contains an area of 4,600 square feet.

The Lot is held for the unexpired residue of a term of 75 years created therein by an Indenture of Crown Lease dated the 4th day of May, 1888.

The Annual Crown Rent is \$60.

For further particulars and conditions of sale apply to—
Messrs. HASTINGS & HASTINGS, Solicitors for the Liquidator, or to the Undersigned,
GEO. P. LAMBERT
Hongkong, 13rd May, 1917. [888]

ON SALE.

A TABLE OF THE

RATES OF EXCHANGE AT HONGKONG

FOR DEMAND DRAFTS ON BOMBAY

On the Day preceding the Departure of the English Mail from the Year of the Closing of the Indian Mint to the Free Coinage of Silver

FROM 1883 TO 1900;
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RATES FOR SOVEREIGNS, GOLD LEAF, BAR SILVER (From 1900), and other Useful Information.

Price 91 Cash.

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BATHING

CAPS.

We have just received an exceptionally fine assortment of BATHING CAPS.

In all the latest Styles and Colours.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,

HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Telephone 16.

largesse were freely employed for the purpose of encouraging an indulgent attitude, and, finally, a bribe was offered to every Member of Parliament who was prepared to sell his vote. This scheme, however, was frustrated, and the Premier, TUN CHU-JUI, carried his proposal to sever diplomatic relations through the House of Representatives by 331 votes to 100 and through the Senate by 157 votes to 37. There is little doubt, however, that the opposition which suddenly confronted him when he proposed to follow the lead of America and declare war was due to German "influence." When, eventually, the Northern Tientsin intervened, the Germans promptly bought over CHANG HSUN and at the same time continued to furnish funds for their former confederates to carry on their agitation. Nor is this the first occasion during the war upon which Germany has been suspected of stirring up strife in China to serve her own ends. There is little doubt that the trouble which arose with Japan in 1915 was fomented by German agents in the hope of preventing our Ally from continuing to supply Russia with munitions. In every part of the world Germany has shown the utmost unscrupulousness in her attempts to embarrass the Allies and create a diversion in her own favour. In the light of this knowledge it seemed only reasonable to anticipate that China would follow the example recently set by Siam in promptly internment all enemy subjects. Our Peking Correspondent, however, understands that the Germans and Austrians in China will be registered and allowed to pursue their avocations, "so long as they are not considered dangerous." It does not, of course, follow from this that they will enjoy their liberty long, for the Government may at any time deem it prudent to remove them beyond the temptation to do evil. It will be remembered that the Siamese Proclamation merely provided that any alien enemy would be liable to summary arrest and detention if there was reasonable cause to believe him to be aiding, or about to aid, the enemy or to be a danger to public peace or safety. With disaffected elements organising an independent Government in the South it would be folly for the authorities at Peking to take any unnecessary risks. Sun Yat-sen and those associated with him may be expected to ignore the declaration of war and to extend a cordial welcome to any German who may find his way to the Provinces under their control.

BIRTH.

BACON.—At London, on June 10th, wife of Rev. J. L. Bacon, C.M.S., China, a daughter.

DEATH.

CORMACK.—At sea, on August 11th, GEORGE CORMACK, Assistant Auditor, Hongkong, aged 38 years. [945]

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VOGES ROAD, C. LONDON OFFICE: 181, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, 16TH AUGUST, 1917.

CHINA DECLARES WAR.

China has declared war at last against Germany and Austria-Hungary as a protest against the policy of ruthless subjugation which those two nations inaugurated last February in a despairing attempt to avert the overthrow of their sorely-tryed military forces by cutting off supplies and reinforcements to the armies opposing them. In his proclamation the President says that the chief object of the Government is "to put an end to the calamities of war and to hasten the restoration of peace." "I cannot bear to think," he continues, "that through us the dignity of International Law should be impaired, or our position in the Family of Nations undermined, or that the restoration to the world of peace and happiness should be retarded."

The step which has now been taken by the Government at Peking, with the concurrence of the entire Cabinet, is a logical sequel to the rupture of diplomatic relations which took place last March, when Germany declined to pay any heed to the representations addressed to her on the subject of submarine warfare. For the political disturbances which arose shortly afterwards and prevented China from proceeding any further along the course she had elected to follow there is a great deal of circumstantial evidence to show that German intrigue was largely responsible. As soon as there appeared to be any likelihood that diplomatic relations might be strained German hospitality and German

CHINA DECLARES WAR.

ENEMY SUBJECTS TO BE REGISTERED BUT NOT INTERNED.

[FROM OUR PEKING CORRESPONDENT.]

PEKING, August 14th.

China has declared a state of war against Germany and Austria-Hungary beginning at ten o'clock to-day.

LATER.

The Presidential Proclamation of War recites Germany's disregard of China's protest against submarine warfare and China's hope, after the severance of Diplomatic relations, that Germany would repent. This hope was now shattered.

As Austria, also, had pursued the submarine policy, therefore China declared a state of war against Germany and Austria, commencing at ten o'clock.

All treaties, Agreements and Conventions were abrogated.

The Government, however, will respect The Hague Convention and International Agreements for the humane conduct of war.

The Proclamation proceeds: "The chief object in issuing the declaration of war is to put an end to the calamities of war and to hasten the restoration of peace, which, it is hoped, our people will fully appreciate. I cannot bear to think that, through us, the dignity of International Law should be impaired, or our position in the Family of Nations undermined, or the restoration to the world of peace and happiness should be retarded."

The Proclamation was announced at nine o'clock.

It is understood that the Germans and Austrians will not be interned, but will be registered and allowed to pursue their avocations so long as they are not considered dangerous.

A Press Censorship is to be established. The Mandate is countersigned by all the members of the Cabinet.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

NATIONAL DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

SHANGHAI, August 14th.

The Government has established a National Defence Conference, the members of which are the Minister and Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, War, Navy and Communications, and various military officers.

The Government has decided on the form of control to be exercised in regard to Germans. The merchants will be watched and officers arrested.

Tuan Chi-jui will be appointed Commander of the Forces to fight against Germany.

LIFE IN HONGKONG.

(WITH APOLOGUES TO W. S. GILBERT.)

First you land, and I'll be bound you gaze appressedly around you.

"Hullo," cries the newly-landed, "For what sins am I thus stranded?"

Rishia coolies swarm and chatter, Make you mad as any hatter.

Rain is pouring, sheeting, blinding, Stopping any chance of finding

Where you're bound for; and you know You're decidedly *de trop*.

Sweating through the seething welter You proceed to find a shelter.

Evening falls and finds you settled Sick at heart with temper nettled.

Dirt and drabness reign unsightly, Swarming vermin plague you nightly.

Prickly heat precludes your slumber, Other ailments soon you'll number—

Sore, rebellious, plunged in sorrow You await a hopeless morrow.

Not a soul will care to know you; Sympathy there's none to show you;

N'er a one to give a greeting, Save politeness, cold and fleeting.

Underpaid, with scanty pleasure Of the kind you know and treasure.

Boon companions, yes, in plenty (Blood runs hotly when you're twenty), Blighting hopes, fulfilling fears—

Thus pass by your early years.

Things go on and time progresses, Soars your temper, thins your tresses;

Your opinion you've revised, You've become acclimatized.

Like the folks you hear applauded Shifted, petty, snobbish, sordid.

Youth, you've lost, nor are you healthy, But, the Lord be praised, you're wealthy.

So, at last, Death takes your tally, And you pass to Happy Valley.

ANON.

THE WAR.

ENEMY SLAUGHTER IN FLANDERS.

RUSO-ROUMANIAN CAPTURES.

AMERICAN STEAMER TORPEDOED.

SPAIN UNDER MARTIAL LAW.

MR. HENDERSON'S STATEMENT.

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH FRONT.

INCREASED HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

LONDON, August 13th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports: There was increased hostile artillery firing southward of the Arras-Cambrai road, also in the Nieuport sector.

Our aeroplanes heavily bombed four aerodromes. The enemy aircraft were aggressive.

We brought down nine enemy machines and drove down eight. Seven of our machines are missing.

EARLIER CABLES.

NOTHING SPECIAL.

LONDON, August 13th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig states that there is nothing special to report.

LATEST CABLES.

FRENCH FRONT.

RHEIMS SHELLED.

PARIS, August 13th.

A communiqué states:—The artillery duel continued most lively.

The Germans, between Cerny and Craonne, again attempted to eject us from the trenches which we carried south of Ailles. All their attacks were repulsed.

We appreciably made progress eastward of Rheims, which received 850 shells, of which some were incendiaries. Four civilians were killed and two injured.

There were violent artillery actions in Champagne, on Mount Cornillet, on both banks of the Meuse, and the Forest of Parroy.

GERMAN REPORT.

LONDON, August 13th.

A wireless German official report states:—We repulsed strong French attacks northward of the Laon-Soissons road and southward of Ailles.

EARLIER CABLES.

THREE ENEMY ATTACKS FAIL.

PARIS, August 13th.

A communiqué states:—Artillery firing is most active between Cerny and Craonne, notably in the sector south of Ailles, where a German attack on trenches which we captured on August 11th was repulsed with heavy losses and was without result for the enemy. Two enemy surprise attacks at Bois de Courrières and Bezonvaux failed under our fire. Two enemy aeroplanes and a captive balloon were brought down, and three other aeroplanes were forced to land severely damaged.

Naval Activities.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

AMERICAN VESSEL SUB-MARINED.

WASHINGTON, August 13th.

The American tank steamer *Campana* was sunk on the 6th inst. off Ireland [Ireland].

Forty-seven survivors were landed. It is believed that the Captain and four of the *Campana's* armed guards are prisoners on the submarine.

Franco-Belgian Front.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

TREMENDOUS BATTLE IN FLANDERS.

GERMANS FALL IN HEAPS.

LONDON, August 13th.

It is impossible to realise from the communiqué the tremendousness of the battle which is proceeding in Flanders.

The latest accounts of the correspondents confirm it as the most titanic struggle of the war. Mr. Philip Gibbs, after emphasising the greatness of the enemy's artillery, which, however, is not so great as ours, says the whole countryside is ablaze with fire and smoke, especially round about Glencorse Wood, Inverness Copse, Stirling Castle and Frezenberg, where a perfect hell-fire rages.

Successive heavy enemy waves counter-attacked these places on Saturday, but were smashed to pieces. When our men were consolidating the Westhoek Ridge on Saturday, they had to call for further help from the gunners. Simultaneously aeroplanes signalled that there was a great gathering of Germans at Nun's Wood and Polygon Wood. Their calls were answered by large groups of batteries of fifteen-inch guns, which swept their fire downwards across the big stretch of country miles deep.

The Germans, with rifles at the slope and weighted with bombs and trench spades, fell in heaps. One of our airmen subsequently reported that he had never seen so many dead.

ENEMY RANKS BLOWN TO BITS.

This is only one of many such slaughters. Here is another. Gunners received a report that Germans were assembling in the Valley of Hanebeke. Two battalions advanced in the open before our guns found them. Then, when the storm broke upon them, they tried to escape by running or throwing themselves down, or plunging into shell craters. But not many escaped, whole ranks being blown to bits. The enemy cannot evade such slaughter, because these bits of high ground which we are capturing guard vital centres. He simply must fight and defend them with the full weight of men and guns. His fire last Friday and Saturday was the greatest which any of our men have ever faced.

WHOLE ENEMY BATTALIONS MASSACRED.

Latest reports show that in the counter-attacks on the Westhoek positions the Germans did not all die from shell-fire. The Lancashire Fusiliers and the North Lancashires fired their rifles all day on Friday and Saturday at human targets which they could not miss. German reserves were hurried up to relieve the shattered battalions and were flung straight into the counter-attacks. They often wandered into the open in full kit, ignorant of our whereabouts. The rifle here reasserted its old prominence and

whole battalions were massacred.

After referring to the big efforts to dispute our air superiority, Mr. Philip Gibbs concludes by saying:—"The enemy is all out. It seems he wishes to make this battle the decisive one of the war. I do not see how he can win it after the loss of the Pilkem and Westhoek Ridges, but he is out to kill, regardless of his own losses."

Russian Front.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE RUSSO-ROUMANIAN FRONT SIX DAYS' BATTLE AT FOCSANI.

LONDON, August 13th.

Communiqués do not confirm the report that General von Mackensen's offensive against the Roumanians is slackening. The battle north of Focsani has now lasted six days, in which the Roumanians, despite a very stout resistance against superior numbers, were driven back five miles by retirement in the direction of Marasesti.

The Roumanians have presumably lost control of the loopline mentioned on August 10th.

General von Mackensen is now sixteen miles from Adjudul, on the retention of which the safety of General Tcherbatoff's Army in the Trotus Valley largely depends.

If Adjudul is lost the railway up the Trotus Valley would be useless and General Tcherbatoff would be compelled to fall back.

LATEST CABLES.

RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE CONTINUED.

LONDON, August 13th.

A wireless Russian official report states:—We, supporting the Roumanians, drove back the enemy in the Olona-Grozochti region.

We captured a series of heights. We are continuing the offensive.

We repulsed counterattacks in the Sloniku Valley.

We have captured 600 prisoners.

The Roumanians are obstinately attacking in the direction of Focsani, and we hold positions westward of the Focsani-Jud railway.

A counter-attack yielded prisoners.

GERMAN CLAIMS.

A wireless German official report states:—We extended our gains southward of the Trotus Valley.

We captured Panciu, overcoming a desperate defence.

We repulsed attacks between the Buzee and the Danube.

Aerial Activities.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE RAID ON ENGLAND.

GERMAN MACHINES DESTROYED.

LONDON, August 13th.

The Admiralty announces that a hostile aeroplane of the Gotha type was destroyed during its return to the Belgian coast. A hostile seaplane was destroyed off the Flanders coast.

A large number of Naval machines decisively engaged the raiders at sea.

One pilot, who destroyed the Gotha machine, first pursued the enemy at an altitude of twelve thousand feet from the North Foreland to fifteen miles off Zeebrugge, where the enemy was lost. On returning to the Thames mouth he observed anti-aircraft fire at Southend. He flew there, and, climbing, observed eight Gothas, followed by four British machines. Steering to the north-east, he climbed up to 18,000 feet and attacked ruthlessly when thirty miles out to sea.

Simultaneously he observed hostile machines four thousand feet below. This enemy formation he attacked. He drove down an enemy to the water, the hostile machine overturning. One of the occupants was hanging to the tail, and to this man he threw a life-belt.

LATEST CABLES.

PILOTS' REPORTS.

LONDON, August 14th.

Reports of pilots show conclusively that the air raid on Sunday was making for London.

On sighting the large number of our aeroplanes which were sent up against them, the Germans turned abruptly and made the best of their way out to sea again, dropping bombs at Southend and unloading the rest when at sea.

The action of the anti-aircraft guns greatly assisted our fighting squadrons.

TOTAL CASUALTIES.

The total number of deaths at Southend is 32, including 13 women and 9 children. Forty-three men, including 18 women and 12 children, were injured.

GERMAN VERSION.

LONDON, August 13th.

A wireless German official report states:—Our aviators attacked England. They bombed with good results the military works at Southend and Margate. One aeroplane is missing.

GERMAN LIST OF AERIAL LOSSES.

Our adversaries in the month of July lost 31 balloons and 213 aeroplanes. We lost 60 aeroplanes.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

MARTIAL LAW IN SPAIN.

MADRID, August 13th.

Martial-law has been declared throughout Spain.

LATER.

The Military Authorities in the Provinces have been ordered to assume complete control.

It is stated that the major part of the labouring classes are anxious to continue work.

Only the Madrid newspapers are appearing. Those employing non-union labour have been promised Government protection.

The strike has assumed the character of a general movement with a revolutionary tendency.

The calling up of the Reservists has been authorised, and they are to prepare for emergencies.

Disturbances are reported from different points.

All is quiet in the capital.

MADRID, August 14th.

In the evening, the strike still continued peaceful. The bakers, gas and tram-workers are still working.

There was a feeble attempt to hold up the trams at Barcelona and Saragossa, but it was easily suppressed.

BRITISH WAR CABINET.

MR. G. N. BARNES APPOINTED.

LONDON, August 13th.

The Press Bureau announces that Mr. G. N. Barnes has been appointed to the War Cabinet.

Prior to the above announcement, it was officially stated that the Labour members of the Government had unanimously approved of his acceptance of the appointment as the Labour representative.

AUSTRALIAN STEAMER LOST.

MELBOURNE, August 13th.

The coasting steamer *Matunga*, bound for Brisbane and Rabaul, has been missing for ten days. Searches for the vessel have proved fruitless.

LATER.

The *Matunga* carried a crew of forty, and there were several passengers aboard.

EARLIER CABLES.

STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE.

DECISION BY THE ALLIES.

LONDON, August 13th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law announced that Great Britain, the United States, France and Italy had decided not to grant permission to attend the Stockholm Conference. (Cheers.)

The Law Officers of the Crown had advised the Government that it would be illegal for any resident in His Majesty's dominions to confer with enemy subjects without licence from the Crown.

AMERICAN LABOUR LEADER'S CONDEMNATION.

Mr. Gompers, the President of the American Federation of Labour, has telegraphed to Mr. Havelock Wilson saying that the Federation will not be represented at the Stockholm Conference, which it regards as prejudicial to the cause of permanent peace and democracy.

He is unable to accept Mr. Havelock Wilson's invitation to visit England, his duties forbidding him to leave the United States at present.

MR. HENDERSON'S RE-IGNITION.

NOT IN NATIONAL INTEREST TO TELL COMPLETE STORY.

LONDON, August 13th.

In the House of Commons, when the Government moved the adjournment in order to enable a full debate on Mr. Henderson's resignation, Mr. Henderson immediately rose to make a personal statement.

He complained against the unprecedented Press campaign against himself and also of the policy pursued by the Premier and his colleagues over the week-end. Although he had never since his resignation left the office of the War Cabinet, the first intimation that his resignation had been accepted came from the *Pall Mall Gazette*. After the Labour Conference he had an interview with the Premier, who made it clear that the Secretaryship of the Labour Party and membership of the War Cabinet was incompatible. There was only one choice in such circumstances.

It would not be in the national interests to tell the complete story of the Stockholm Conference at present. Replying to the charge that he withheld information from the Labour Conference, Mr. Henderson affirmed that whereas his proposed visit to Paris was considered at a special meeting of the War Cabinet the day before he left, Mr. Bonar Law told the House on July 30th that all the arrangements for the visit were made without the knowledge of the War Cabinet.

Mr. Bonar Law, intervening, emphasised that the War Cabinet knew that Mr. Henderson was going to Paris, but only after all the arrangements were made.

Mr. Henderson, continuing, said he informed the War Cabinet of his recommendation to the Labour Party Executive to accept the invitation to Stockholm if the Conference could be made consultative instead of mandatory. There was the sharpest division of opinion in the Cabinet over his advice, and he offered to resign. When he returned from Paris on August 1st, he gave Mr. Lloyd George a full and faithful statement of his position and his reasons for advocating attendance at the Conference.

Thereafter Mr. Lloyd George asked him to attend a special Cabinet meeting, but when he arrived he was told to wait. He waited an hour, when Mr. Barnes was sent out with a message to him. He insisted upon his right to address the Cabinet, and was then invited in. Mr. Lloyd George explained that he had asked him to wait outside out of regard for his feelings. He protested, and the Cabinet then discussed his visit to Paris.

Dealing with the charge of breach of faith in not quoting the communication from the Russian Government at the Labour Conference, Mr. Henderson pointed out that he attended the Conference as the Secretary of the Labour Party, and it would not have been right for him, when speaking in that capacity, to quote a Government telegram.

Mr. Henderson emphasised that he informed the Labour Conference that the position of the Russian Government had been modified. He never intended to withhold from the Conference any information he was legally entitled to use.

Mr. Henderson stated that he never received a telegram from M. Kerensky dissociating himself from the Stockholm Conference. The telegram was received through the French Embassy after the Labour Conference closed.

After again emphasising that it was not in the national interest to tell the full story of Stockholm at present, Mr. Henderson concluded by deprecating discussion at present in view of the signs of unrest in the country and the difficulties he believed the Government must face before the Stockholm question was finally disposed of, and he appealed for unity in order to bring the war to a successful conclusion.

The Premier said that whatever anyone might think of the major point in Mr. Henderson's speech they would respond to his appeal for unity in securing victory. Three-fourths of Mr. Henderson's remarks were irrelevant, and he did not think the House wished him to comment thereon.

The Premier re-affirmed that the impression left upon every member of the Cabinet, including himself, by Mr. Henderson's attitude at the Cabinet meeting prior to the Labour Conference in London was that he (Mr. Henderson) would use the whole of his influence to turn down the Stockholm Conference. The Russian Government's telegram in the Premier's communication, cabled on August 8th, meant that the Russian Government had nothing to do with the Stockholm Conference.

Mr. Philip Snowden, who wrote the covering letter.

The Premier said that it came from the Russian Embassy. Did anyone imagine if that telegram was read at the Labour Conference it would have made any difference to the proceedings? The Premier said, regarding the general position, there had been a change during the last few days. Efforts were being made to restore discipline in the Russian Army, and the first step taken to prevent fraternisation with the enemy. In these circumstances nothing could be more fatal than a conference with the enemy at Stockholm. That conclusion had been come to by the United States, which was a great democracy, by the French Republic, by Italy and by Great Britain. (Lord cheers.)

Four of the Allied countries had definitely concluded that peace terms must be discussed by representatives of the whole nation. He was the last man to disparage the power of Labour, but Labour was not the whole community. Peace must be made by the whole nation. It has become clear that the Russian Government was not responsible for the Stockholm Conference, and we should not be doing our duty towards the Allies, least of all towards Russia, if we countenanced such a project. (Lord cheers.)

Mr. Asquith described Mr. Henderson's dual position as a member of the War Cabinet and Secretary of the Labour Party as impossible. He declared that Mr. Lloyd George's statement that peace must be approved by the peoples of all the countries concerned would be echoed through all the Allies.

Mr. Asquith emphasised that the Labourites did not wish to go to Stockholm in order to prepare a precarious peace. The Labour Party's declaration of their policy, cabled on the 10th inst., showed that British Labour was determined to continue the fight until our great objects had been achieved. (Cheers.) The subject then dropped.

LATEST CABLES.

AMERICAN AIRCRAFT BOON.

WASHINGTON, August 14th.

Neutrals are showering orders for aeroplanes at such a rate that in order to confine the supply to itself and the Allies the Government has prohibited the export of aircraft.

RE-EXAMINATION OF ITALIAN ARMY CLASSES.

ROME, August 14th.

An order has been issued for the re-examination of the classes of 1874 to 1882.

AMERICAN STEAMER'S FIGHT WITH U-BOAT.

The American tank steamer *Morini* (4,045 tons, owned by the Standard Oil Company) was set on fire and sunk by a German submarine, following a battle in which over 300 shots were fired. Four Americans were killed.

The *Morini* fired 200 shots. The submarine captain congratulated the *Morini* captain on the splendid fight he had made. Forty-three survivors were picked up by passing steamers half an hour after the sinking of the vessel. All the men were saved; six were injured. The battle started at 4 o'clock in a smooth sea, the submarine firing at a range of 8,000 yards.

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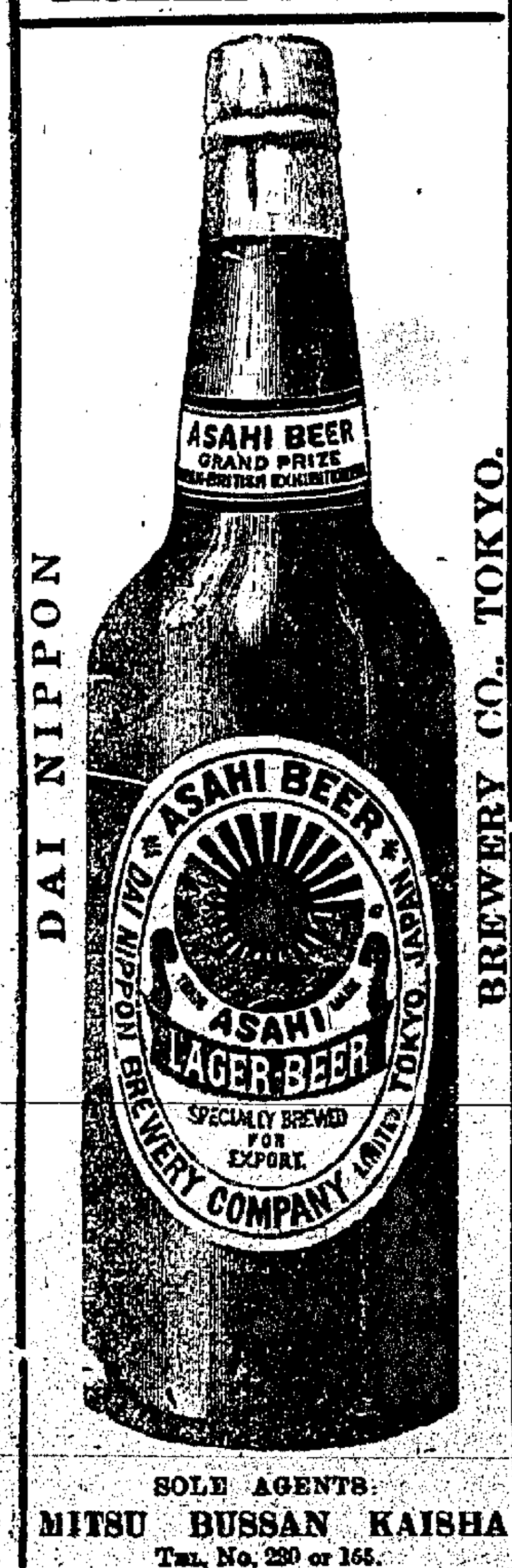
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NOTICES TO CONSIGNEES

AMERICAN ASIATIC S.S. CO. NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

From NEW YORK.

THE Steamship

"HANNA NIELSEN."

Captain L. J. Danielsen, having arrived from the above Port, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, Kowloon, and stored at Consignees risk and expense.

All broken, damaged, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on Wed. 15th Aug. at 10 A.M.

All Claims must be presented within FIFTEEN DAYS of the Steamer's arrival here, after which date they cannot be recognized.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 16th Aug. will be subject to rent.

Consignees of cargo are hereby notified that they must produce an Import permit signed by the Superintendent of Imports and Exports, Hongkong, before Bills of Lading can be countersigned.

No Fire Insurance has been effected. Bills of Lading will be countersigned by **SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.,** General Agents.

Hongkong, 9th August, 1917. [333]

S.S. "CORDILLERE"

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

NOTICE.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo from Havre, &c., in connection with above Steamer are hereby informed that their Goods with the exception of Opium, Treasure and Valuables are being landed and stored at their risks into the Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co. Ltd. at Kowloon, where delivery may be obtained immediately after landing.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded on unless intimation is received from the Consignees before NOON TO-DAY requesting it to be landed here.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the Undersigned. Goods remaining unclaimed after the 16th inst. at NOON, will be subject to rent and landing charges.

All Claims must be sent in to me on or before the 19th inst., or they will not be recognized.

All damaged packages will be examined on WEDNESDAY, the 16th inst., at 10 A.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected. **P. THOMAS,** Agent.

Hongkong, 9th August, 1917.

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For further particulars, sailing dates, etc. apply to **E. V. D. PARR,** Superintendent.

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THE NEW FRENCH REMEDY **THERAPION No. 1**

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ON THE CANAL-AND BEYOND

Along the banks of the Suez Canal and thence along the old coast road to the east you will find to-day, between the endless series of British encampments, caravans of camels passing to and fro with their burdens or lying patiently at their mangers and chewing the cud with that tranquil expression of the beast which no stress of war can disturb. There are more camels gathered here than ever were assembled in the bazaars of Cairo or Damascus. Though the defence of Egypt has been carried forward from the Canal itself to the hills and dunes of the Sinai desert and to the Land of Promise beyond, the Canal is still an integral part of the defensive scheme. Roads and railways. It is true, run out here and there eastwards from the bank, but there remains a vast hinterland unclaimed from the desert waste in which our troops continually move. The riparian sands, if one may so call them, and the little Lancashire-in-the-desert which the loving sentiment of the North Country Territorials has imagined, have become a network of roads and lines; and a motor lorry will rattle you from Balla to— (out away in the desert)—as fast as a jolting car on the roads of Connemara.

But ere long you will come to a region which car or locomotive has not yet defiled, and here the camel reigns supreme. Daily he carries the food and water for the men in the extreme line of trenches and at the outposts beyond, and on his back are loaded the posts and wires which daily extend "civilisation." He bears, too, the material with which the line of defence is being pushed forward; he is harnessed to guns in places where motors are baffled, and he carries the ambulance of the desert, in which two men are balanced on either side of his hump.

THE CAMEL TRANSPORT CORPS.

The Camel Transport Corps, although not exactly a fighting force, has been in action and received its baptism of fire. No shell or bullet can excite the stolid, contemplative animal; but it might have been expected that the camel-drivers, fellahs enrolled in the Egyptian villages, unnamed and untrained for war, would have run for it at the first sign of attack. Yet in fact most of them responded admirably to the call of their British officers, and their animals, while bullets whizzed around, with characteristic simplicity, or, it may be, obstinacy, when told to bring in their camels to shelter they insisted on taking with them blankets which are issued to every man, lest they should be stolen in their absence. Some wanted to mount a hill under fire to get their money from their tents. The contempt which a Sudanese mailman feels for the modern long range fighting was expressed by one head man—the more warlike Sudanese regulars, not as he would ever the Egyptian fellahs—who remarked, "as the shells burst, that in his country they 'fought it out with knives.' But another, who possessed the little knowledge of danger which is often so dangerous, when told to leave cover and fetch his camels, declined: 'Me stoppa one Dardanelles; me no stoppa two.' The camel-drivers themselves have planted a stigma on those who run away, classing them as 'Blatts' (girls) who are no fit for the society of 'Rigala' (men). And in some companies to-day the lines are those who fled; and it is reward or punishment to be moved from the one to the other.

THE SLOWNESS OF MODERN ARMIES.

It is the paradox of modern warfare that with all the mechanical means of locomotion the progress of an army is almost always much slower than it used to be. To-day there are no brilliant dashes and every mile of advance even across the desert has had to be painfully gained, and then—blessed word—"consolidated." The army which has thus lit by bit driven the Turk off the desert that bounds Egypt on the east has advanced along the main track which passes near the coast line from Africa to Asia. It is a country not of mountains and ravines but of rolling sand dunes and green oases. Hods, as the Arabs call them—where palms, peeping out of the surrounding barrenness, give that wonderful variety of colour that is characteristic of the desert. It is a country where the sand is a sea, and where the yellow ridges and crests take the place of snowfields and glaciers, and the clusters of date-trees represent the lakes. From time immemorial it has been the domain of the Bedawin, the true gypsies, who have no home save their camels, but now it is populous with camps and bivouacs. You see before you an apparently endless vista of sandhills and palm groves, but descend the slopes a little and you will find a bustling camp gay with tents. In one hollow you will see a great windmill-like structure, a windmill. Here the Australian and the New Zealand flag marks the gallant rivalry of our overseas troops, pushing forward their advance. Patrols of light horse scout every recess of the "Gebel," and caravans of camels, often a mile long, loaded with food and drink for man and beast, thread the ridges, from the gloaming of the dawn to the evening twilight.

What makes life possible for the troops moving through the soft sand in the summer heat is that the sea is near, and the bathing is splendid—like the bathing at Ostend in the days before the war. A broad and level beach which would make the fortune of any resort at home stretches eastward from Port Said mile on mile. However still the day, the waves break in a continuous roll, and when the wind blows from the north the air is as fresh as on the Kent coast; nor is there wanting, as on that coast, "a certain liveliness" from occasional bombs. But there are days when the wind is from the scorching south or the east, and then the temperature may be anything but fresh.

As in the days of the Exodus, the great need of the sojourners in the desert is water. Modern engineering, with all its devices, can not improve much on the ancient ways of finding wells in the sand. A diviner with his rod regularly accompanies the troops at each forward move, and where the rod bends in his hands the sappers dig. The modern army, however, has not a miraculous rod like that of Moses which can make the brackish water sweet. It is not difficult to find wells, but few are serviceable for the men. Camels, luckily, are not squeamish about the more or less saltiness of the water, and they will march two, or even three, days on one drink. A continual string of camels, therefore, proceeds from the bourn of civilisation, as represented by pipes and a filtered water supply into the depths of the wilderness, loaded with trucks of fresh water for the troops beyond. Before the campaign in over the desert route from Egypt to Syria will be lined with pipes below and wires above the ground, and a railroad running between them, for the Turks have been lavishing these things likewise from their end. But to-day there is still a considerable interval between the two armies (inconspicuous of pipes and wires and rails; and here the camels are still the natural and necessary link.—N.B. in the Manchester Guardian.

GERMAN OUTRAGES. THEIR REAL MOTIVES.

[FROM "THE DAILY TELEGRAPH'S" SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT AT ROTTERDAM.]

"Our U-boats will attain their object if we at home keep our nerves." This message from Admiral Tirpitz to the Essen branch of the "Independent Committee for a German Peace" gives the clue to the internal condition of Germany, and partly explains the murderous aerial campaign against England. The German General Staff is forced to be guided in its direction of affairs, not only by military considerations, but also by the necessity of endeavouring to lighten the slackening nerves of the people. For the fulfilment of the promise conveyed in Tirpitz's message is already over-due. The "object" of the U-bout campaign was to end the war in three months, and the German people are now realising that, far from bringing peace nearer, the campaign of murder on the high seas has only prolonged their miseries by calling new enemies into the field.

Something must be done to raise their flagging spirits, and that something takes two forms. The first is the militarily fruitless but spectacular air raid on England. The second is the publication, every day, of some sort of list of alleged submarine booty. In connection with the striking fact is, compared with the earlier statistics, the absence of any convincing details. Another feature worthy of notice is the non-publication of the figures of the total tonnage sunk during May, undoubtedly prompted by the circumstance that they show a great falling-off as compared with the previous month. That this is so is implicitly admitted by the *Hamburger Fremdenblatt*, which, in quoting a Swiss paper's statement to this effect, after remarking significantly, "Even if this be correct," laboriously explains that probably fewer U-boats are operating, owing to the necessity of re-fitting. Arguing that the submarines have caused a reduction of imports to England, the same paper claims to be in possession of official British statistics showing that the imports of chlor salt, for instance, last April were 400 tons, compared with 3,864 in the same month last year, of kati salt 21,000 odd tons, compared with 51,000 odd, petroleum 20,400,000 gallons, compared with 35,100,000, benzina 10,200,000 gallons, compared with 15,700,000.

Reverting to the air-raid accounts, these obscure everything else in the German Press, including the dwindling submarine returns. Even before to-day's loss of another Zeppelin the failure of these baby-killing gas-bags had become obvious. The *Kreuzzeitung*, commenting on the aeroplane attack on London, says: "Up to now these attacks were carried out by airships, which, however, in consequence of the perfecting of the English arrangements of defence during the war, were exposed to increasing dangers, so that it was only with considerable losses they were able to do anything." Would the paper have written this if it had been able to foresee that in a few hours its admission of the perfection of the English defence would be magnificently endorsed? All the papers try to excuse the murder of children with the argument that it is inevitable when attacking a "fortress" like London. Says the *Kreuzzeitung*, for example: "There is absolutely no occasion for them in England to excite themselves over this affair" (this affair being the murdered babies!) "for our real objects are the docks, wharves, railways, barracks, and other institutions of military importance, of which London is full." Even this hypocrisy is surpassed by contrasting London as the object of attack with Freiburg.

There is little doubt that the German two-fold real motive of the baby-killing expeditions is, first, the erroneous idea that the effect on the British public is the same as that produced on their less stoical own people at the mere threat of a bomb attack, and, secondly, as already suggested, the raising of flagging courage by creating the belief that England is being "vitality damaged."

In the campaign for restoring the nerves of the German people Hindenburg has again been called in aid. The latest utterance of the Prussian idol is a message to Essen, in which he says: "Only fight on, everybody at his post, and true to our Kaiser, and full victory with a peace securing to Germany its welfare and prosperity is ours."

THE NEED OF WATER.

As in the days of the Exodus, the great need of the sojourners in the desert is water. Modern engineering, with all its devices, can not improve much on the ancient ways of finding wells in the sand. A diviner with his rod regularly accompanies the troops at each forward move, and where the rod bends in his hands the sappers dig. The modern army, however, has not a miraculous rod like that of Moses which can make the brackish water sweet. It is not difficult to find wells, but few are serviceable for the men. Camels, luckily, are not squeamish about the more or less saltiness of the water, and they will march two, or even three, days on one drink. A continual string of camels, therefore, proceeds from the bourn of civilisation, as represented by pipes and a filtered water supply into the depths of the wilderness, loaded with trucks of fresh water for the troops beyond. Before the campaign in over the desert route from Egypt to Syria will be lined with pipes below and wires above the ground, and a railroad running between them, for the Turks have been lavishing these things likewise from their end. But to-day there is still a considerable interval between the two armies (inconspicuous of pipes and wires and rails; and here the camels are still the natural and necessary link.—N.B. in the Manchester Guardian.

THE WAR SHOPS OF BRITAIN.

[BY C. VINCE.]

Some day the history will be written of the war shops of Britain, those shops without which her thousands would have died in vain on the wire entanglements of the German trenches. The world believed before the war in the scientific genius of the German people in their skill as chemists and as engineers. Then it saw that though all this genius had been turned to the uses of war, yet it failed before the armies of the Allies, that it was not so strong as the endurance and courage of men. And then it saw how one by one the inventions of Germany were met and matched by the inventions of the Allies. Until now it feels that it must change its old estimates and look to France and Britain not only for the warlike men, but for the mechanical genius of war.

No one will know till long after peace comes all that Britain had to do, and all she has done in those factories which were still to build when the struggle began. It was not only that guns and munitions and transport were wanted, but that she had to contend with strange methods of warfare, methods that were known, but forbidden, and that none believed any civilised nation would ever use. Poison gas and liquid fire were weapons against which at first the Allies were met and matched by the inventions of the Allies. Until now it feels that it must change its old estimates and look to France and Britain not only for the warlike men, but for the mechanical genius of war.

But the Germans have not been the only enemy that the engineers of the Allies have had to fight. They have had that knee-deep mud of the shell-hole, and traffic-worn battle country, when in any other war would have made armies impotent, and they have built those caterpillar wheel tractors which carry heavy guns over any ground. The story of the transport of the Allied armies will not be the least wonderful chapter in the history of the war. It will be the story of that network of railways which the British army has built behind it; of railways taken up entire in England and brought to France, and of strange machines from Canada, which lay lines faster than any gangs of men, so that now in one day the British Army can transport more munitions than it could in a month. And besides, all these inventions and labours of the army there are those strange inventions of the shipyards, from which the veil has been lifted a little, those steel nets in which the submarines were trapped, those war ships unlike any ships the waters had ever seen, which no torpedo could harm.

We may envy those who will be able to look back calmly on the efforts of these times; read their full story; wonder at the many things that were done, know all the mysteries of the shipyards and the engine shops and the factories, and see its completeness the work of three years of war. We, who are in the midst of it all, can realise it only by glimpses when we come suddenly on those places that we knew before the war, and see the change. It was thus that I came upon a ship building town that I had not visited for three years. It had seemed a busy place in those days, full of the furious labour and ringing noise of the yards. There were ten thousand men working in it. Now there are in it 40,000 men, building submarines and cruisers, and forging and welding heavy guns; and there are 10,000 women busy at the making of all kinds of shells. There are no holidays in that town. Neither by day nor night do the vast furnaces ever slacken, the huge cranes rest, the great hammers cease striking. Twenty-four hours in the twenty-four they toil; and as the day-shift goes home to rest the night-shift settles to their round of labour till day comes again.

But the work of that town is not by measured by the five-foot measure of its workers. It is to be measured by a much greater standard. In that one town in one month more shells are made, more submarines finished than in the whole of Great Britain in the course of a whole year before the war. And that is only one town. I went through it in a driving rain that seemed to be washing down to earth again the dirt from the smoke laden sky. But out of that grey rain-sodden triumph, beating out the fog of victory, and I seemed to hear the echo in all of those million other hammers in all of those towns of Great Britain, day and night without ceasing, as they beat to that same song.

ESCAPE AFTER NEARLY THREE YEARS.

A Leeds soldier, Private George Young, Royal Munster Fusiliers, who was taken prisoner by the Germans in August, 1914, has, with a comrade, succeeded at last in reaching his home. The two men were out with a working party, when they made a dash for liberty. The sentry fired, but missed, and as he could not leave his post, the men got away and reached the frontier in two days. On one occasion Private Young was bayoneted through the arm by a German sentry for failing him to ask the Commandant to see if their parcels from England had arrived.

MEDICAL RE-EXAMINATION. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DOCTORS. A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

In the House of Commons recently, Mr. Pringle moved to reduce the salary of the Secretary for War by £100 in order to call attention to the scandal in connection with the medical re-examination of discharged and rejected men. He was able to show, he said, that not only had the precautions which were promised not been observed, but that these re-examinations had been carried out in a harsh, cruel, unfair, and wasteful way. (Hear, hear.) In nearly every area of the country the recruiting authorities had sent out notices for re-examination not only to men who had obtained fraudulent rejections, or had in the past been carelessly examined, or whom they had reason to suppose had improved in health, but they had called upon the maimed, the halt, the blind, the mute, the mad, and even the dead to appear before these examining authorities. These men were bullied by the recruiting officers, frequently kept waiting for many hours without food or water, and treated with harshness and insult by the medical officers, who usually conducted the re-examinations in the most perfunctory manner. (Hear, hear.) Every member of that House who had any connection with local or appeal tribunals felt the same indignation at the treatment which allowed it. (Cheers.) Exceptions were obtained, when the Act was passing through that House, that men wounded, gassed, or suffering from neurasthenia, as the result of naval or military service, should be exempted from the provisions of the Act, but these men were being called up. The uniformity with which they had occurred in every area indicated that there must be some instructions which were responsible for all this cruelty. Apart from the cruelty involved, it was a waste of the national resources. Many thousands of men were being taken into the Army to-day, and had been taken during recent months, who were unfit for any form of service. We had mobilised our cripples. That sort of thing could not be done without destroying the confidence of the public, and the Government could not stir up discontent without prejudicing the successful conduct of the war. (Cheers.)

Sir G. Baring said he was chairman of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Tribunal, which had dealt with 4,000 or 5,000 cases, and their confidence in the medical boards was very soon rudely shaken. In numerous cases where men had been passed for Class A or B1 these men a few weeks afterwards were entirely rejected or reduced to a very low category by the Central Medical Board. His tribunal in cases of doubt always sent the men to be examined by the Central Medical Board, for whose existence he was very thankful. A large number of chairmen of these medical boards were members of the Royal Army Medical Corps. He did not impugn their honour, but there was a belief that their masters, the War Office, were more anxious for quantity than for quality. He would like to see more independent civilian doctors as chairmen of medical boards.

REPLY FOR THE WAR OFFICE.

Mr. MacPherson, replying, stated that there had been a great deal of misrepresentation in the country in connection with the Act. The rejections with which the Act dealt were accounted for on four grounds:

1. Rejections by the recruiting sergeant of men who had seen no doctor at all;
2. Fraud;
3. Rejections of men by certain select corps on personal grounds;
4. Rejections on account of ill health.

The War Office had stated that they did not expect to get more than 100,000 men as the result of the re-examination. But amendments were introduced, and the War Office afterwards reduced the estimate of men who would be acquired to 60,000. That was a *prima-facie* case for the good faith of the War Office. They knew that from 950,000 to 950,000 men might be called up for re-examination, and it might be said that it was not worth while to go to all that trouble for the sake of 60,000 Class A men. He understood that by the time they had examined all these men they hoped to get 60,000 A men and 60,000 for the lower categories—in all 120,000 men, or practically six divisions, a number equivalent to the original Expeditionary Force.

Mr. Asquith: Fighting men? Mr. MacPherson said he thought he had made it clear. The 60,000 A men might in course of time go into the fighting-line. It was said they were calling up crippled men to fight in the trenches, but labour in the Army was a different problem now, and any man who was sufficiently well to earn his livelihood in a civil capacity could be used in the Army. It was forgotten in speeches in the country that it required a man and a half to keep a man in the trenches. It had also been said that all men suffering from wounds, neurasthenia, or who had been gassed were being called up to go into the Service again. Mr. MacPherson, continuing, said the Government agreed to an amendment exempting men in all those categories, add if any had been passed into the Service it was illegal and a mistake, and they would get their discharge if their cases were brought to the notice of the War Office. Any man who had been illegally brought before a medical officer had only to fill in a form and send it to the recruiting officer and he would hear nothing more about it. Mr. Hogge: Tell that to the marines. Mr. MacPherson: But Mr. Hogge said Mr. Pringle and others had advised men not to take the trouble to sign these forms. The right of the men had been made perfectly clear. Undoubtedly men had been discharged in the earlier stages of the

war whom it was impossible to discharge now with the present demand for manpower. He quite agreed that hardship ought not to be inflicted on men who had served abroad, and it was now proposed that any man who had served abroad and had been discharged on account of wounds or sickness, who claimed exemption under the Act, He denied that any instructions had been given by the War Office to medical officers as the result of which they were getting quantity rather than quality. No medical man of any standing would accept such instructions. The Army Council had issued instructions that the greatest consideration should be shown in the medical examinations, that the men improperly discharged at the beginning of the war should be considerably dealt with, that the case of men in the lower categories should be carefully considered, and that men who had already served should be exposed to as little hardship as possible.

15,000 MEN EXAMINED DAILY.

This instruction was sent to all the medical officers. The authorities had been examining men at the rate of 15,000 a day, and had had to cope with these enormous numbers with a very much shortened staff of capable medical men. Doctors were not always perfect, and he did not doubt there were cases of very great hardship. But under the Act the man whose case was under review had the additional right, after being examined by the Medical Board, of appearing before the Appeal Tribunal, which might give him permission to go to the Special Medical Board, on which the most distinguished doctors and surgeons in the country served, including, in London, Sir Frederick Treves. In addition to these statutory rights, inspecting officers had recently been appointed to visit every medical board in the country.

If the Committee was not satisfied, he was authorised to say that the Government was willing and ready to appoint a small Parliamentary Committee to go what the Government had already done—examine into the working of the Act. (Cheers.)

Sir T. C. Warner: Will this Committee have power to dismiss people who have committed these atrocities? Mr. MacPherson replied that the Committee would have executive power of that kind. If it was shown by any courts of inquiry that there had been action *ultra vires* or any action amounting to cruelty and brutality, he could safely say that the executive power of the Army Council would be exercised.

MR. ASQUITH'S SUGGESTIONS.

Mr. Asquith: I must acknowledge to the House that I feel a special responsibility in this matter, because I was largely answerable for the assent which the House of Commons gave to the adoption of compulsory military service. A great many of my old political friends and others in various quarters of the House viewed the principle of that measure with intense repugnance, and they only consented to its adoption on the assumption that compulsion was going to be equitable and universally applied, and, in particular—that is why I feel special responsibility in this matter—my colleagues, with my assent, gave express pledges and assurances at the time when the second of the two Military Service Acts was passed. I am quoting the words of Mr. Long. He said: "We all want that there shall be a time, and as early a time as possible, when all these men who have been medically rejected shall know that their cases have been revised and settled for all time; that is to say, those who have been re-examined and called up for service shall know what their duty is, that those who are rejected shall never again be harassed and called up to undergo medical examination." The right hon. gentleman, with my full assent, expended that with these words: "There is an impression that it is the intention of the War Office to get a re-examination of the medically rejected men, that the men examined a year ago will not necessarily be rejected to-day, and that men rejected to-day may not necessarily be rejected in six months' time. That is an entire misapprehension. There is no intention whatever to review these medical re-examinations." That was the policy of the Government then, and that was the assurance given to the House of Commons.

THE RECENT ACT.

When, in the early part of the present session, the Act, the administration of which we are now considering, was brought forward, it provided for what up to then had been refused—the renewal of the medical examination of the rejected men. Those of us who thought, as I confess I thought, that a case had been made out, sought to make it perfectly clear that at any rate it should be administered in the spirit in which those original pledges had been given, and with the utmost consideration for all those persons who might be brought under review. Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. MacPherson assured us that that would be the case. The House, I think reluctantly, acquiesced in that, because there were many of us who thought, no doubt, like the Government themselves, that there were many peoples in the country, young men, single men of military age, men who had taken no part, voluntary or otherwise, in the conduct of the war, who might very fairly be called upon to serve in priority to those who—by medical rejection, still more those who having served at the front had been wounded and come back here, should be first called upon to serve their country and undertake the duty of active combatants. (Cheers.)

What has been the result? My hon. friend told us that he hoped, as a result of this Act, that there would be an accession to the Army of, I think, 60,000 men capable of active service, and 60,000 others. We will say you have got these men, but no one can have listened to the speeches with which this discussion was introduced, and no member of this House can recall the contents of his letter-bag in the course of the last six weeks, with-

out feeling, whether or not you have got 120,000 men, that they have been got by means which have excited widespread discontent and indignation. I am not making any charge against the War Office, but all our experience shows that in matters of this kind the best intended and best expressed instructions do not, in circumstances such as these, prevent the possibility of the recurrence of gross personal cases of hardship. Look at the case put forward on behalf of the War Office. Mr. MacPherson says if the Medical Board goes wrong you have got an appeal. There is the possibility of a further appeal to a board composed, no doubt, of men of the highest possible capacity.

Mr. Hogge: Only by permission. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Asquith: Only by permission. I have had given to me the figures showing the experience of the Appeal Tribunal in London. These are the results of medical re-examination for the five months ending May 9th of the present year. This is the most important tribunal in the country. It sits in six different committees, and it is a significant fact that the total number of cases brought before them during these five months does not exceed 490. These 500 cases must be the residuum of thousands, and perhaps tens of thousands, of decisions by tribunals of first instance. It is an inevitable drawback of a system of this kind that the men who come before the tribunal of first instance, through ignorance, want of means, want of advice, and a hundred other things, even in some cases of the greatest hardship, are never able to prosecute their case beyond the tribunal of first instance. It is inevitable. I have letters which convince me, looking at this thing quite impartially, that inevitably there are men that no reasonable body of either medical or any other men ought ever to have dreamt of passing. I won't say for Class A, but for any form of military service whatsoever, who have frequently—I am afraid because these medical boards are very congested with business, after what has been a very brief and perfunctory examination, and in spite of the opinion of medical practitioners who knew the medical history of the individual concerned—been passed in an almost reckless fashion. The evidence on that point is absolutely overwhelming.

INSUFFICIENT PROTECTION.

The right of appeal is unfortunately insufficient protection against individual cases of hardship. The fact that there have been only 500 appeals to the County of London Tribunal in the course of nine months confirms and corroborates what I have just said. (Hear, hear.) Of these 500 appeals, in 28 per cent. of the cases there was no alteration; in a little more than 10 per cent. the category in which the man had been placed was raised; in 60 per cent. the category was lowered; and in nearly 20 per cent. of that 60 per cent. the man was either referred back or rejected altogether. That shows that in this tribunal, in considerably more than half the cases the opinion of the medical board was reversed, and that in nearly 20 per cent. of the cases the man was declared to be a person who ought not to have been sent into any category of any sort or kind. (Cheers.) If that has been the case in the County of London, we may be sure it has been the case in other parts of the country also. I do not want to forestall in any way the conclusion of the Committee which I am glad to see is going to be appointed, but I venture to offer one or two suggestions.

In the first place, I think the committee of what I have called the tribunals of first instance ought to be modified and improved. (Cheers.) I am sure it is not intended that it should be within the competence of the president to overrule the opinions of his colleagues. But it is the practice that the president of these tribunals has overridden the opinion of his colleagues? If it is, the line of reform I should suggest is first and foremost that there is complete parity of authority between the different members of the medical board, and next, that a far more possible the president of the board should be a person who is not himself in the employment of the War Office. (Cheers.) I should be the last person to cast any reflection on members of the Royal Army Medical Corps, as I know from experience what an admirable and well-qualified body they are. But in these matters it is of importance not only to have competence but to give confidence. I think in the interests of everyone the presidents of these bodies should be independent and private medical men. (Cheers.) Another suggestion I should like to make is that when men who have been wounded or invalided have been recalled, and it has been decided that they are not fit to return, the decision should be taken as final.

Mr. Bonar Law: I think that is the case now.

THE WOUNDED AND INVALIDED.

Mr. Asquith: No it is not—(cheers)—from the information which reaches me. Men who have been wounded or invalided from the front have gone before one of these tribunals, and they have been told to come again in six months' time, or after some other specified interval. With this thing hanging over their heads, the possibility of re-establishing themselves in civil life on a basis completely disappears. (Cheers.) In many of these cases—cases of shell-shock and so forth—recovery is very uncertain and very deceptive, because an apparent recovery is followed by a recurrence of the old trouble, and the man is not really fit for military service. I am perfectly certain the very small contingent hypothetical gain of the additional number for the Army which could be achieved by re-examining these men is far more than counterbalanced by the hardship, injustice, and uncertainty in which you throw the whole of them by keeping this spectre—if I may so call it—this possibility over them. (Cheers.)

MR. BONAR LAW.

Mr. Bonar Law: I should be the last to claim that we have not the right to the severest criticism if admitting the necessity of this Act, we had not done everything in our power to carry it out, not only with the least loss from the national point of view, but with the greatest possible amount of consideration for the men who are affected by it. That is

clearly our duty. (Hear, hear.) It is my belief, and it is a belief at which I have arrived by making the closest inquiry in my power, that the more the way in which this Act has been carried out is examined, the more it will be found that the War Office, not only in theory, but so far as is possible in practice, have tried to carry out the definite pledges which were given by myself in this House. They have tried to do so, and I think with considerable success. It would have been a monstrous thing that the War Office should have knowingly called up men who were specially excluded under this Act to come up for examination. They did not do it. They sent the notice, which my hon. friend implied contained some abusive document which requires a lawyer or a member of Parliament to understand it. That is not true. All that is required is that a man shall be able to read the notice and either to be present or to return the notice to the recruiting officer. Mr. Hogge has actually admitted that he himself was responsible for advising men who received that circular not to fill it up.

Mr. Hogge: And so I will again. Mr. Bonar Law: I say that in doing that he is preventing the laws of the country from being carried out. I ask the Committee to believe that there has been an honest attempt on the part of the War Office to carry out the deliberate intention of the Government and the House of Commons. Mr. Asquith has made suggestions as to the composition of the medical boards. Before this Bill was passed the Government knew that they would need a far larger force of medical examiners than before. Accordingly they took steps to get competent men, and in December of last year Dr. Galloway, the leading physician at Charing-cross Hospital, and examiner to the London University, was appointed by the Government as inspector of these medical boards. He is not a servant of the War Office, and in his account of these boards, most of which he has examined, he says: "There must be errors made from time to time among the large numbers of decisions arrived at. But I have been a witness of the patience and courtesy shown by the medical boards in cases where these qualities have been subjected to severe trial." The members of these medical boards, though they have temporary Army commissions, are almost entirely civilians with private practices. I have examined this matter as closely as I can, and I am satisfied that at no time has work been done more conscientiously or more patiently. It seems to be thought that unless a man is fit to be a soldier in the ordinary sense it does not pay to take him. But these men are wanted just as much as the soldiers, and if they are not there we cannot have the soldiers in the trenches. In introducing the Re-examinations Bill I pointed out that by coming behind the lines we had done a great deal to make up the shortage of recruits at that time. I have been asked for some indication of the number who have been got into the front fighting line from those behind and from the Home Forces. We have actually got in the trenches now between 70,000 and 80,000. I say, therefore, that these men are important, and that we must get them.

EQUALITY OF SACRIFICE.

Mr. Asquith says that there is a widespread feeling that as long as there are young men, whatever their occupation, left you should not take this class of men. But he could not carry that out. We have discovered more and more as the war has gone on that there are other things which are as really vital to us as the men in the fighting trenches, and if these men are spared from home to replace other men it is absolutely essential that we should make use of their services.

Mr. Nield, speaking as chairman of a Tribunal, said that in the county of Middlesex, there had been a scandalous want of management at recruiting stations for weeks past. He knew of men being spoken to in a manner in which warders would not be allowed to speak to prisoners.

Sir W. Collins said the War Office viewed the certificates of the family practitioners and consultants with suspicion. There ought to have been greater opportunity of access to special medical boards.

Sir W. R. Adkins said, as a member of an Appeal Tribunal, that the carrying out of the medical re-examination was in most, if not in all its particulars, most unsatisfactory.

MR. SNOWDEN DECLARED THAT WHAT HAD HAPPENED WAS AN INEVITABLE RESULT OF CONSCRIPTION, UNDER WHICH MEN'S LIVES WERE HANDED OVER TO THE MILITARY MACHINE.

He knew of a man at Brawley, who had a wooden leg, who had been passed into the Army under this Act.

PATRIOTIC MINERS.

Mr. C. Edwards said that, speaking with the sanction and at the request of a large number of public meetings, and miners in the centre of the South Wales coal area, he called formally upon the Government at once to take the young unmarried miners for military service instead of the older married men. The Government would be told by their experts that all the unmarried miners up to the age of 31 could be taken, with the exception of certain particular classes. There were 573,000 men of military age, who were badged, in the mines of the country. Of that number 157,835 were unmarried and under the age of 23; 34,727 were unmarried men between 23 and 30; and just over 8,000 were unmarried and under 32. Taking other mines there were 5,200 unmarried men under 31. That gave a total of 205,000 unmarried miners under 31, of whom 117,000 were attested men. These men were overwhelmingly desirous that they should be taken. They could be taken without suspending the eight-hours day or employing the policy of the concentration of production. The great mistake the Government had made was that they had failed to recognise that the machine of the trade unions had been deliberately captured by the caucus of the Independent Labour Party and the Syndicalists, and these did not represent the men in the industry. He had 50,000 miners in his constituency, and if what he was saying was not true he was committing political suicide. The Government should stop their peddling negotiations, and deal with this situation not through the officials of the union but with the men at the pit-heads.

Mr. Pringle withdrew his motion and progress was reported.

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WEATHER REPORT.

On August 13th at 18.30.—No. 3 signal hoisted, and at 20.30 signal lowered.

On August 14th at Noon.—Telegraphic communication with Hongkong, Gap Rock and Waglan has been interrupted since 2 p.m. yesterday. From the few returns available, it would appear that the typhoon exists as a depression over S.W. China, filling up rapidly.

N.B.—Owing to lack of telegraphic returns, no weather map or forecast will be issued to-day.

Hongkong rainfall for 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 4.29 inch. Total since 1st January, 69.49 inches, against an average of 68.89 inches.

The forecast for the 24 hours ending at noon to-day is as follows:—

Forecast.

Hongkong to Gap Rock

Formosa Channel

South Coast of China between Hongkong and Lauksa

South Coast of China between Hongkong and Hainan

HONGKONG'S STORM SIGNALS

A NEW CODE

New local and non-local storm signals codes will be introduced at Hongkong on July 1st, in place of the old Local Code and the China Coast Code.

The principal change in the Local Code is that the new signals will show the direction from which the gale is expected, whereas the old signals showed the position of the typhoon. The latter will be indicated, as heretofore, by the non-local signals. The new Local Code is given below:

Signal. Symbol. Meaning.

- 1.—Red cone.—A typhoon exists which may possibly cause a gale at Hongkong within 24 hours.
- 2.—Black cone.—Gale expected from the North (N.W. to N.E.).
- 3.—Black cone inverted.—Gale expected from the South (S.E. to S.W.).
- 4.—Black drum.—Gale expected from the East (N.E. to S.E.).
- 5.—Black ball.—Gale expected from the West (N.W. to S.W.).
- 6.—Double cone.—Gale expected to increase.
- 7.—Black cross.—Wind of typhoon force expected (any direction).

Signal No. 7 will be accompanied by three explosive bombs, fired at intervals of 10 seconds at the Water Police Station and repeated at the Harbour Office.

The signals will be lowered when it is considered that all danger is over. The Day Signals will be displayed at the masthead of the storm signal mast on Blackhead Hill, the Harbour Office, H.M.S. Tamar, Green Island signal mast, the flagstaff on the premises of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company at Kowloon, the flagstaff on the premises of the Standard Oil Company at Leikikok, and the flagstaff near the Field Officer's Quarters at Lyemun.

NIGHT SIGNALS. (Lamps)

- 1.—White-white-white.
- 2.—White-green-green.
- 3.—Green-white-white.
- 4.—Green-green-white.
- 5.—White-white-green.
- 6.—Green-green-green.
- 7.—Red-green-red.

The Night Signals will be displayed, at sunset, on the tower of the Railway Station, on H.M.S. Tamar, and on the Harbour Office flagstaff. They will have the same significance as the day signals. Signal No. 7 will be accompanied by explosive bombs as above, in the event of the information conveyed by this signal being first published at night.

SUPPLEMENTARY WARNING.

When local signals are displayed in the Harbour a cone will be exhibited at the following stations:—Gap Rock, Waglan, Stanley, Aberdeen, Sau Ki Wan, Sai Kung, She Tan Kok and Tai Po, to notify the fact to native craft and passing ocean vessels.

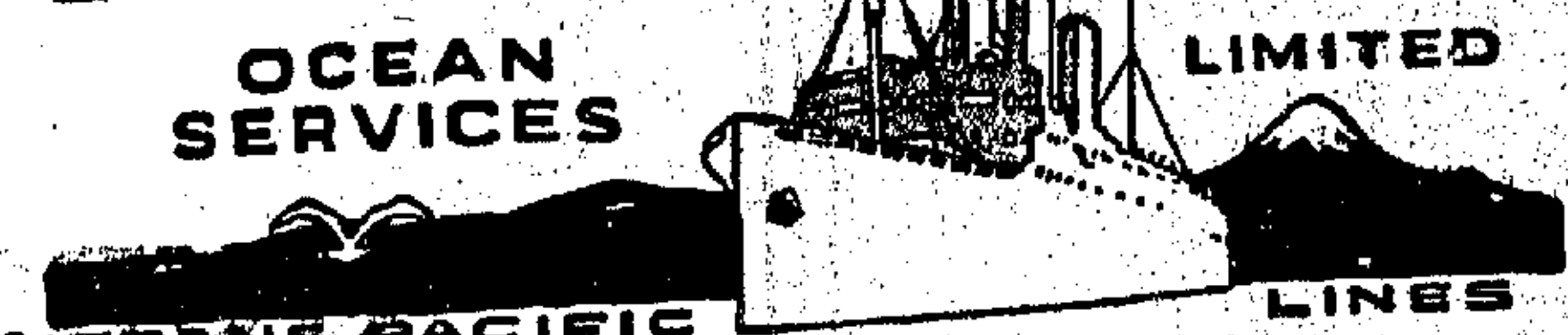
Further details can always be given to ocean vessels, on demand, by signal from lighthouses.

The object of the code is to give at least 24 hours' warning of a gale (Force 8 by Beaufort Scale, or 40-45 m.p.h., mean velocity by Dines Anemometer) and also warnings of expected changes in the direction and force of the wind. Owing, however, to the uncertain movements of typhoons, and to insufficient telegraphic observations, it will occasionally happen that signals 9 to 5 may be displayed without a gale occurring at Hongkong, or even Gap Rock, but the reverse is not likely to happen, except in the case of typhoons forming in the vicinity and travelling rapidly towards Hongkong, or of a located typhoon increasing its rate of progression abnormally.

Signal No. 1 is intended as a warning to "Stand By" and watch for the next signal.

In the new non-Local Code the approximate velocity of the storm centre will be shown, in addition to its direction of motion, and the position of the centre will be given in degrees of latitude and longitude. The time at which the warning was issued will also be shown.

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TIENTSIN ... "CHIPSING" Sunday, 19th Aug. 11 P.M.

HAIPHONG ... "LOKSANG" Monday, 19th Aug. 7 A.M.

SHANGHAI ... "WINGSANG" Wednesday, 22nd Aug. 11 P.M.

MANILA ... "YUEN SANG" Saturday, 25th Aug. 3 P.M.

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This line is temporarily discontinued owing to the war. Particulars on application.

SHANGHAI LINE.—Sailings approximately every five days between Canton and Shanghai, sometimes calling at Swatow.

Steamers on this line have a limited amount of passenger accommodation, and through tickets can be obtained for Northern and Yangtze Ports via Shanghai. Through Bills of Lading are issued to all Northern and Yangtze Ports.

MANILA LINE.—A weekly service is maintained with Manila by vessels with good passenger accommodation, sailings from both ports every Saturday.

HAIPHONG LINE.—Sailings approximately weekly for passengers and cargo, calling at Haiphong when inducement offers.

BOERNEO LINE.—One sailing per month between Hongkong and Sandakan by a steamer having up-to-date accommodation for passengers.

Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading for Kudat, Jesselton, Labuan, Tawao and Lahad Datu.

TIENTSIN LINE.—A regular service is run from March to October between Hongkong and Tientsin, calling at Weihaiwei and Chiaofoo.

UNDER STRAITS GOVERNMENT PASSPORT REGULATIONS. All European Passengers leaving the Colony for Straits Settlements are required to produce on arrival at destination passports with their Photographs and description affixed thereto.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

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OWNERS OF THE "SHIRE" LINE OF STEAMERS.

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WILL SAIL FROM HONGKONG FOR

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All Steamers fitted with Wireless Telegraphy.

The Steamers are all fitted throughout with Electric Light and

have accommodation for a limited number of Saloon Passengers. All

steamers carry a duly qualified surgeon. Cargo taken at through rates

to all ports in Netherlands India and Australia.

For Particulars of Freight and Passage, apply to the

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OF THE

JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN.

MONTHLY SERVICE BETWEEN

NETH. INDIA. MANILA. HONGKONG & SAN FRANCISCO

Next Sailings for SAN FRANCISCO via NAGASAKI.

Subject to Change Without Notice.

S.S. "TIJKENBANG" ... 21st August.

The Steamers have accommodation or a limited number of Saloon Passengers and

carry a duly qualified surgeon.

Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading to all Overland Points in the United

States of America and Canada.

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York Building Managing Agents. [62]

"NEDERLAND" ROYAL MAIL

LINE

(STOOMVAART MAATSCHAPPY "NEDERLAND")

"ROTTERDAM LLOYD" ROYAL

MAIL LINE

STOOMVAART MAATSCHAPPY "ROTTERDAMSCH LLOYD"

JOINT SERVICE

Between NETHERLAND INDIES, SINGAPORE, HONGKONG and SAN FRANCISCO

Next Sailings for SAN FRANCISCO via NAGASAKI, YOKOHAMA and HONOLULU.

Steamers Ton-age to sail.

"HINDJANI" ... 8,000 ... 15th August.

"VONDEL" ... 10,000 ... 19th Sept.

"ORANJE" ... 8,000 ... 13th Sept.

"KONINGIN DER NEDERLANDEN" ... 15,000 ... 26th Sept.

These Superior Passenger Steamers have accommodation for First and Second Class

Saloon Passengers.

For further particulars please apply to

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JAVA PACIFIC MAIL SERVICE.

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CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL

REGISTER.

14th August, A.M.

Station.	Hour.	Barometer at Sea Level	Temperature	Humidity	Wind Direction	Force	Weather
Vladivostok	6 a.	29.37	68	—	—	—	—
Nemuro	6 a.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hakodate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tokio	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kobe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagasaki	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kagoshima	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oshima	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Naha	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ishijima	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Senja Is.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weihaiwei	6 a.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hankow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ichang	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kinkiang	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Changsha	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shanghai	—	29.70	75	98	W	1	b
Guzhuai	—	29.61	80	68	NE	1	b
Sharp Peak	—	29.70	63	70	S	1	b
Amoy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swatow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keelung	—	29.12	71	92	—	—	—
Taipei	—	29.75	70	—	—	—	—
Tainan	—	29.75	73	—	—	—	—
Koshun	—	29.78	81	—	WNW	4	b
Pescadore	—	29.13	70	—	S	4	b
Canton	6 a.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hongkong	—	29.68	75	65	NW	2	b
Uap Rock	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Macao	—	29.61	73	94	SW	6	b
Wachow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shanghai	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pekhai	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phu Lien	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tourane	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cape St. James	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aparri	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dagupan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manila	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lega	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tacloban	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hollo	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Surigao	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Labuan	—	29.74	80	91	—	—	—

T. E. CLAXTON, Director.

INDIAN AFRICAN LINE.

Carried on through Bills of Lading from HONGKONG to BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN (Natal), EAST LONDON, PORT ELIZABETH and CAPE TOWN with transshipment at COLOMBO to Steamers of the INDIAN AFRICAN LINE.

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Regular Direct Service from JAPAN, CHINA and STRAITS to BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON, PORT ELIZABETH and CAPE TOWN, calling at MAURITIUS en route, and affording the Quickest Freight Transport from the ORIENT to SOUTH AFRICA.

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General Agents.

C. N. C.
CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

FOR STEAMERS TO SAIL

SWATOW and BANGKOK	"HUPH"	On 15th Aug. 3 P.M.
SHANGHAI	"SINKIANG"	On 17th Aug. D'Light.
SHANGHAI	"HUICHOW"	On 17th Aug. Noon.
SHANGHAI	"ANHUI"	On 19th Aug. D'Light.
SHANGHAI	"SUNNING"	On 21st Aug. 4 P.M.

DIRECT SAILINGS TO WEST RIVER, Twice Weekly.

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TELEPHONE 26.

Agents

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REGULAR SERVICE of Fast, High Class Coast Steamers having good accommodation for First Class Passengers, Electric Light and Fans in staterooms and Saloons and Excellent cuisine.

FOR

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AND RETURN.

(Occupying 9 to 10 Days).

"HAITAN" ... Capt. A. E. Hodgins ... FRIDAY, 17th Aug. at Noon.

Arrivals and Departures from the Company's Wharf (near Hake Pier).

For Freight and Passage, apply to—

DOUGLAS LAFRAIK & CO.

General Managers.

BRITISH INDIA S. N. CO., LTD.**AFRICAN LINE.**

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WESTWARD

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MARSEILLES AND LONDON.

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STRAITS, COLOMBO, INDIA, AUSTRALASIA, EGYPT, &c.

Steamers	Leave Hong Kong	Connecting Mail	Due at Marseilles	Due at London
COLOMBO	1917	1917	1917	1917

When Passengers change Steamers at COLOMBO.

Accommodation in the connecting Steamer from COLOMBO is definitely reserved in Hongkong at the time of Booking.

On the Australian Route Tickets interchangeable with Orient Line.

SAILINGS DIRECT TO

SHANGHAI, MOJI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

S.S.

LEAVE HONGKONG ABOUT

Passengers may travel by Railway in Japan between Ports of Call free of charge. Return Tickets are available by Messageries Maritimes Company.

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STEAMERS.	Leave Hong Kong about	Leave S'pore about	Due at Marseilles if calling about	Due at London about
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All Cabins are fitted with Electric Fans free of charge and each Berth furnished with an Electric Reading Lamp.

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Return Tickets at fare and a half available to Europe for Two Years or to Intermediate Ports for Six Months.

Owing to the War in Europe Steamers and Sailing dates are liable to be cancelled or altered without notice.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

Consignees are reminded of the necessity to apply to the Company's Agents regarding arrival of consignments expected of which they have received documents or advice.

Any damaged packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the Consignees, and the Company's Surveyors, Messrs. GODDARD & DOUGLAS, at 10 A.M. on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS. All Claims must be presented within ten days of the Steamer's arrival here after which date they cannot be recognized. No Claims will be admitted after the goods have left the Godowns.

For Further Information, Passage Fare, Freights, Handbooks, Dates of Sailing, etc., apply to

E. V. D. PARK,
Superintendent.

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via KEELUNG, SHANGHAI, Capt. Shinobe 12,500

MOJI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA (SHIDZUKA MARU) WED'DAY, 12th Sept. at Noon.
SHIMIDZU and YOKOHAMA Capt. Noma 12,500

SYDNEY and MELBOURNE via MANILA ZAMBOANGA THURSDAY ISLAND TOWNSVILLE and BRISBANE.

CAIROUTTA via SINGAPORE, PENANG and BANGKOK.

BOMBAY via SINGAPORE, MALACCA and COLOMBO.

NAGASAKI KOBE and (TANGO MARU) FRIDAY, 17th Aug. at 11 A.M.
YOKOHAMA Capt. Soyeda 13,500

SHANGHAI, KOBE and (KITANO MARU) SUNDAY, 26th Aug. at 11 A.M.
YOKOHAMA Capt. Cope 16,000

TAISHO MARU THURSDAY, 16th Aug. at Noon.
Capt. Ogawa 8,000

KOBE (ASAKI MARU) WED'DAY, 22nd Aug. at Noon.
Capt. Kozuka 8,000

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Sailings from Hongkong—Subject to Change Without Notice

Steamers	Tons	Leave Hongkong
NIPPON MARU	11,000	SATUR., 25th Aug.
SHINYO MARU	22,000	FRI., 7th Sept.
PERIA MARU	9,000	SATUR., 22nd Sept.
KOREA MARU	18,000	FRI., 5th Apr.
SIBERIA MARU	18,000	MON., 15th Oct.
TENYO MARU	22,000	FRI., 26th Oct.

The s.s. "Nippon Maru" and s.s. "Peria Maru" omit call at Shanghai.

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HONGKONG to VALPARAISO via JAPAN, HONOLULU, SAN FRANCISCO, SAN PEDRO, SALINO CRUZ, BALBOA, CALLAO, ARICA AND IQUIQUE. THENCE BY TRANS-ANDIAN ROUTE TO BUENOS AIRES.

ANYO MARU ... 18,500 Tons
KIYO MARU ... 17,500 "
SEIYO MARU ... 14,000 "

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SERVICE TO AND FROM JAPAN VIA SHANGHAI.
SERVICE TO AND FROM EUROPE

Ports of call:—Yokohama, Kobe, Shanghai, Hongkong, Haiphong, Tourane, Saigon, Singapore, Colombo, Djibouti, Suez, Port Said, Marseilles.

A STEAMER will sail for Saigon Direct on or about 15th Aug. Taking Passengers and Cargo.

SPECIAL SUMMER RATES TO JAPAN

1st Class Return tickets from 1st June, 1917, to 31st October, 1917, and interchangeable only with PENINSULAR and ORIENTAL S. N. Co. for return journey.

FARES: TO KOBE, \$135.00; TO YOKOHAMA, \$150.00

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North American Line. For VICTORIA, SEATTLE AND TACOMA via SHANGHAI, MANILA, NAGASAKI, MOJI, KOBE, AND YOKOHAMA.

"MANILA MARU" ... THURSDAY, 16th Aug. at 3 P.M.
"CHICAGO MARU" ... TUESDAY, 28th Aug. at 3 P.M.

NORTH AMERICAN LINE—This line maintains a regular fortnightly service between Hongkong and Puget Sound ports touching at intermediate ports in Japan. Overland cargo taken on through Bills of Lading for U.S.A. and connections are made at Puget Sound ports with the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway.

SOUTH AMERICAN LINE—Every three months the steamer proceeding to Rio de Janeiro, Santos and Buenos Aires, via Singapore, Manilla, Durban and Cape Town.

AUSTRALIAN LINE—Monthly service between Japan and Adelaide, calling Auckland, N.Z., Sydney and Melbourne.

BOMBAY LINE—Fortnightly service for Bombay calling at Singapore, Port Swettenham, Penang, and Colombo. At present this line's steamers maintain cargo only.

JAVA LINE—Monthly service for Java ports calling at Manilla, Sandakan and Macassar. Booking for passengers and cargo to the ports.

FOR SAILING DATES AND FURTHER PARTICULARS REGARDING PASSENGER OR FREIGHT APPLY AT OFFICE.

FORMOSAN LINE—For Tamsui, Keelung and Anping, Tainan, via Swatow and Amoy.

"ROSHU MARU" ... THURSDAY, 16th Aug. at 10 A.M.
"AMAKUSA MARU" ... SUNDAY, 19th Aug. at Noon.
"JOSEPH MARU" ... WED'DAY, 22nd Aug. at 10 A.M.
"KAJO MARU" ... SUNDAY, 26th Aug. at Noon.

These Formosan Liners will arrive at and depart from the SOON YIP WHARF, near the Harbour Office, and while the steamer is alongside the wharf Telephone No. 78 will be used.

For FURTHER INFORMATION, apply to—

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